WHAT DIGITAL CAMERA

WHAT TO BUY... AND HOW TO USE IT

December 2006 Issue No.116

Dusk To Dawn

Techniques for great night-time shots

Jungle Book

Inspirational images from the rainforest

THE BIG TEST

Canon 400D

The world's best-selling DSLR gets a 10-megapixel upgrade

100 Xmas Ideas

Great gifts to buy – or make from your own photos

ESSENTIAL GEAR: Over 200 Cameras & Accessories In Our 12 Page Buying Guide

AOL Keyword: What Digital Camera

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THE WDC TEAM

Editorial staff

Nigel Atherton
EDITOR
Studied photography at Plymouth CAD and University of Westminster, over 10 years as pro photographer, has been a photographic journalist since 1994

Natalie Hitchins
NEWS EDITOR
A digital arts journalist, Natalie has been a writer, contributor and editor on a wide range of digital creativity titles

Jacky Porter
PRODUCTION EDITOR
A keen amateur photographer, Jacky has been a Production Editor for more than six years on various publications

Steve Crabb
ART & TUTORIALS EDITOR
20 years' design & photography experience, client list includes The FA & Body Shop. Book author and various magazine contributor

Contributors

Philip Andrews
SHOOTING AND EDITING SKILLS
Senior Lecturer, Photography & Digital Imaging. Author of many books, Adobe alpha tester

Joël Lacey
TESTS, TECHNICAL FEATURES
Technical photography writer and editor for over 20 years, author of four books

Ian Burley
TESTS, TECHNICAL FEATURES
Computer technology writer since 1984 for national/specialist press, runs www.dp-now.co.uk

Martin Evening
PHOTO CRITIQUE, TESTS
Photographer, author, Photoshop Alpha tester, official Adobe Roadshow speaker and lecturer

John Freeman
TECHNICAL FEATURES
A top pro photographer, has written more than a dozen glossy photo technique books

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WHAT DIGITAL CAMERA

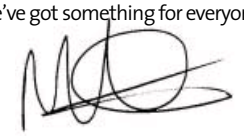
Contact us at: What Digital Camera, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS Tel: 020 7261 5323 Fax: 020 7261 5398, wdc@ipcmedia.com

WELCOME...

...to our packed December issue, in which we answer the question: Just how do you improve on the world's most popular DSLR? Find out in our big test of the new Canon EOS 400D.

With Christmas just around the corner we've also brought together an incredible collection of accessories from £6.99 to £350 that would make ideal gifts – either for yourself or someone else. We've also group tested a selection of sub-£100 cameras, a bunch of waterproof cameras and camera housings, and a whole load of portable photo printers.

With an inspirational guide to night photography, a step-by-step guide to making your own photo gifts, and a showcase of beautiful images from the world's rainforests, we've got something for everyone.



Nigel Atherton
nigel_atherton@ipcmedia.com

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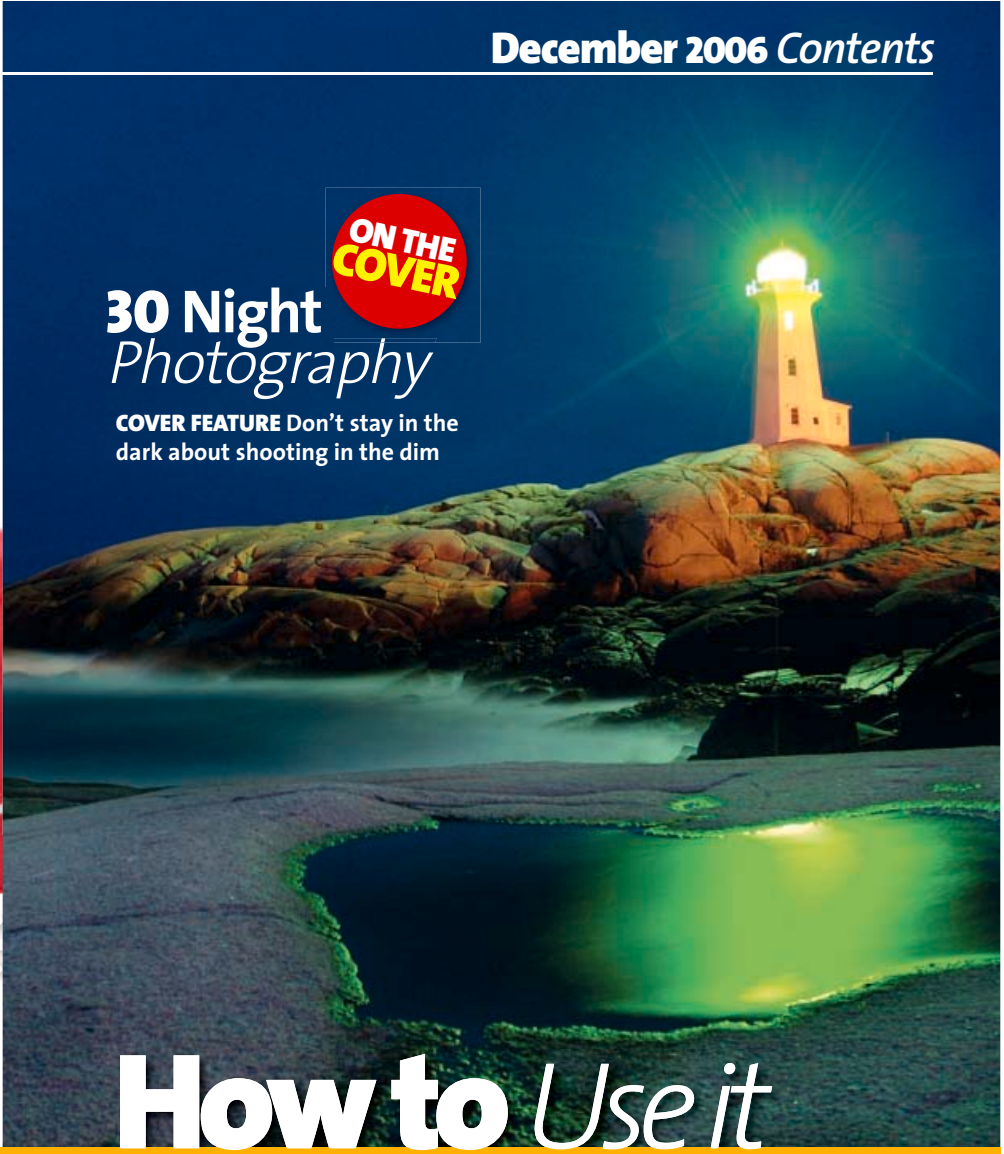

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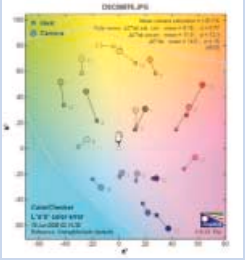
Our *Guarantee*

WDC *Lab Tests*

The camera and accessory tests in What Digital Camera are the most authoritative of any UK photography magazine. They are conducted by a highly experienced team, with decades of professional photography and photographic journalism between us. In addition to field testing, all our cameras are subjected to in-depth lab tests, and analysed using software by **Imatest** (www.imatest.com) and **DxO Labs** (www.dxo.com) so you can be sure that our conclusions are accurate and trustworthy.



Contribute *to* WHAT DIGITAL CAMERA

Send us your pictures, letters and queries, and you could be in with a chance of winning a great prize

LETTERS

Want to get something off your chest? Share it with us at **wdc@ipcmedia.com** for publication in a forthcoming issue or write to us at the address above. The Letter of the Month will receive a stylish Lexmark P450 printer, worth £149 (UK only).

PROBLEMS AND ADVICE

Got a problem? Need help? Then write to Helpfile at: **wdchelpfile@ipcmedia.com** or at the postal address above right. We try to answer all queries but cannot guarantee it, and depending on volumes, answers may take a while to appear in print. Questions published in the magazine may be uploaded to the website at a later date.

PICTURES

Send us your best pictures and see them in print! You could win a fabulous prize. The best images sent to us each month will be published in WDC or on our website gallery at **www.whatdigitalcamera.com.**

BEST SHOT SELECTOR: If your portfolio is published in our gallery section you could win a copy of Adobe Photoshop CS2, an Epson R800 printer or a Sandisk 1GB Extreme III CF/SD memory card.

EVENING CLASS: Our resident photo critic, Martin Evening, selects a handful of readers' images each month for constructive criticism in his Evening Class column. Every picture published wins a copy of Martin's worldwide bestselling book *Adobe Photoshop CS2 for Photographers*, or a copy of Adobe Photoshop Elements 4.0.

SUBMITTING *PHOTOS*

BY EMAIL: Email up to five JPEG images to: **wdcgallery@ipcmedia.com**
Images must conform to these specifications:

- Mimimum size 1800x1200 pixels. This equates to approx 6"x4" (15cmx10cm) at 300ppi, or a file size of around 6MB when OPEN. (Remember: jpegs are smaller when not open).
- Maximum size 3000x2000 pixels, which is around 10"x7" (25x17cm) at 300ppi – an OPEN file size of 17MB.
- Do not attach too many images to a single email. Try to keep total email sizes below 5MB. Send them on several emails if necessary.
- Make sure you also include the information listed below.

BY POST: Send up to 20 JPEGs or TIFFs on a CD to the address above.

- Minimum sizes as above, but there is no maximum size limit.
- A printed sheet of thumbnails would be useful for reference.
- Make sure you also include the information listed below, as a text document on the CD.

Please include the following information with your submission:

- Your name
- Where you're from
- Around 20 words about yourself
- The title of the image
- Caption details (what, where, how etc)
- Camera and lens details
- Exposure information (if known)
- A mugshot of yourself

Publishing Director Angela O'Farrell
Associate Publisher Gareth Beesley
Head of Marketing Lindsay Greatbatch
Marketing Manager Mary De Cinque
Group Creative Director Brett Lewis
Product Photography Alan McFaden
School of Photographic Imaging
Adminstrator Laura Bianco 0207 261 6501
Thanks this issue to Gavin Stoker, Viv Craske, Michael O'Connell, Marek Biernacki
ADVERTISING TEAM
Head of Sales Chris Templeman 020 7261 5634
Advertising Manager Dave Stone 020 7261 6848
Display Sales Executive Julia Spencer
Display Ad Production John Jones 020 7261 5447
Copy Chaser Kumu Vithlani
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PENTAX

for your precious moments

Take it steady!

Introducing the New Pentax K100D with in-camera 'Shake Reduction' System

Like Origami, the new Pentax K100D turns technical wizardry into an art form. Compact, easy to use and a joy to handle, it has the unique Pentax 'Shake Reduction' system built into the camera body. So picture sharpness cannot be compromised by camera shake. Add to that; 6.1 megapixel resolution, 11-point wide area auto focus system, flexible picture modes, 2.5" LCD monitor, plus compatibility with all past and present K-mount lenses, and the result is pure Pentax. The perfect creative tool for every enthusiastic photographer!

www.pentax.co.uk

K100D

SR Shake Reduction

Want to know more? Call us on 0870 9011295

PENTAX

CAMERA *NEWS*

Fujifilm Reveals *S5 Pro SLR*

Eagerly awaited update to Fuji's S3 Pro SLR unveiled!

IN A *Nutshell*

Price: £TBA
Mega Pixels: 12.34 MP (6.17m S-pixels/ 6.17m R-pixels)
Sensor: Super CCD SR
SL Stabilised: No
LCD: 2.5 Inch

Fujifilm has announced the development of an eagerly updated sequel to its S3 Pro digital SLR, due for release next February. According to the manufacturer, the new S5 Pro is being designed to appeal to a broader range of photographers than its predecessor to reflect today's more competitive SLR market place.

At the heart of the camera will lie an updated version of Fujifilm's Super CCD SR sensor, dubbed Super CCD SR Pro. Using a layout of 12 million paired photodiodes (6.17m S-pixels and 6.17m R-pixels), the 12MP Super CCD SR is intended to deliver improvements in noise, dynamic range, colour and tonality. To further improve the capability of the sensor, an improved low-pass filter has also been developed, which Fuji claims will keep moiré and noise to a minimum.

A new processor, Real Photo Processor Pro, is also to be combined with the CCD to facilitate colour reproduction and reduce noise. A two-stage noise-reduction process is promised, in addition to low-light sensitivity of up to ISO 3200. Fuji's processing will subtract residual or ambient noise from the sensor, helping the camera to produce smoother images during long exposures.

Confirming the company's affiliation with Nikon, Fujifilm has made the S5 Pro compatible with Nikon's F-mount, including Nikkor AF-D/G and AF-S lenses. Fuji has additionally added compatibility with Nikon's latest i-TTL flash control.

Adrian Clarke, Fujifilm's director of photo products, said: 'The introduction of the FinePix S5 Pro brings heightened performance, handling and image quality to our DSLR product group and we expect this to attract an increasingly diverse range of professional users. These are exciting times for us.'

There's no definite news as to an expected price for the S5 yet, but it is a hoped that a full prototype will be unveiled at 2007's PMA trade show.

Photokina *2006*

The pinnacle event in the photographic industry's calendar hit Cologne this September, bringing with it news of hot new products and prototypes that'll be winging their way to a store near you in coming months.

Over 1600 representatives from 46 countries exhibited at Photokina, making the show the largest yet, and the biggest dedicated imaging event in the world. As photography's global players unveiled their wares in front of the photographic press, a crowd of 160,000 visitors were on hand to help spread the excitement.

New products causing a stir included Fuji's S3 Pro update; a prototype of Olympus's upcoming sequel to the E1; and a new SLR and SLR-grade compact from Sigma. New accessories-a-plenty, a multitude of fresh lenses and displays of recently announced cameras further made up the numbers.

For a Photokina round-up and the latest news, visit www.whatdigitalcamera.com

Sigma's SLR *Stunner*

Following a successful online teaser campaign, Sigma has unveiled the long-awaited sequel to its SD10 SLR. The 14MP SD14 will feature a Foveon X3 direct-image sensor, five-point AF and dust-protection technology. Key improvements include in-camera JPEG, a larger viewfinder, improved autofocus and continuous shooting of 3fps, bigger 2.5in LCD, Lithium-Ion battery and a built-in flash.

The SD14's Foveon X3 image sensor claims to ensure the capture of 'full and complete colour'. Using three silicon-embedded layers of photo detectors, stacked to take advantage of silicon's ability to absorb red, green, and blue light at different respective depths, it promises more-accurate colours and sharper resolution than rival image sensors.

The new autofocus features five focusing points (centre, left, right, up and down) and AF metering offers a cross-type sensor in the centre of the screen. Photographers can select the AF point automatically or manually and have the choice of three metering modes including eight-segment Evaluative, Centre Area and Centre Weighted Average metering.

The number of images captured in continuous shooting mode ranges from six to 24 (in either RAW or JPEG format), depending on the resolution quality setting selected.

Two new digital lenses accompany the launch. The new 18-200mm F3.5-6.3 DC OS and F2.8 EX DC Macro are designed for SLRs with APS-sized sensors and offer 27-300mm and 27-75mm equivalent fields of view respectively. The SD14 is due on sale this November at a suggested price of £1099. For full details visit **www.sigma-imaging-uk.com**

Lightroom v *Aperture*

Adobe and Apple went head-to-head at this year's Photokina show, simultaneously announcing updates to their respective professional post-shoot processing applications.

Aperture received a major update to become **Aperture 1.5**, while Adobe's package moved into its fourth Beta version, with a full retail version promised for next year.

Top of the list of new features in Aperture 1.5 is a new open library system that generates high-res previews of images stored not only on the hard disk but also remotely on CDs, DVDs or external drives. Additional key features include the ability to create pre-filled IPTC metadata presets, full integration with iLife and iWork applications and editing enhancements. Recommended price is £219, but it will be free for existing Aperture users.

The Lightroom Beta (now called **Photoshop Lightroom**) remains a free download and features a range of enhancements made in response to user feedback from version three. Key developments include a revamped interface, increased levels of customisability and a new precision white balance tool.

For more information visit **www.apple.com** and **http://labs.adobe.com**

SnapShots >>

APEX RETURNS

Lowepro has launched a range of camera pouches designed for adventurous outdoor photographers. The Apex Collection are the first of Lowepro's smaller pouches to be fitted with an 'All Weather Cover' which can be pulled over the bag. Available in black, the pouches come in six sizes – 60, 30, 20, 10, 5 and the Apex PV, designed to hold a Photo Viewer and other storage devices. Available now, the Apex pouches start at around £15. To find out more, visit www.lowepro.co.uk

THE NAME'S ERICSSON, SONY ERICSSON

Sony Ericsson has announced special-edition silver versions of its K800i and K790 Cyber-shot camera phones, as used by James Bond in the upcoming new Bond movie *Casino Royale*. The Bond-themed silver K800i and K790 combine mobile phone functionality with a 3.2-Megapixel camera with autofocus. The handsets also offer support for a digital imaging lifestyle, including features such as Picture Blogging and PictBridge functionality. The Cyber-shot handsets will be available until the end of 2006. Find out more info at www.sonyericsson.com/uk

FOUR-THIRDS COMPANIES UNITE

Olympus, Panasonic and Sigma have joined forces to create a joint product catalogue featuring the full range of Four Thirds standard-based lenses. The publication comes after recent Four Thirds-compatible SLR releases from all three manufacturers, and features a total of 24 interchangeable lenses. The official Four Thirds website (www.four-thirds.org/en/) has also been updated to coincide with the launch of the catalogue, that can be ordered by calling 0800 072 0070.

THE ULTIMATE COMPACTFLASH?

Kingston Technology's line-up of CompactFlash Ultimate Cards has expanded. Aimed at professional and advanced amateur photographers, the new CompactFlash Ultimate Cards feature Ontrack EasyRecovery software, providing data recovery capabilities for lost images. The manufacturer has additionally increased the write speed from 100x to 133x on its 2GB and 4GB Ultimate cards and launched a new larger 133x 8GB capacity model.

Little *Wonder*

A compact camera with an SLR-grade sensor – that's the almighty brief that Sigma has set itself for its current camera development project.

The manufacturer unveiled plans to develop a high-end point and shoot camera, dubbed the **DP1**. Currently in the early stages of development, the DP1 will feature the same sensor as Sigma's SD14 SLR, the 14-megapixel Foveon X3. The camera will additionally feature a 16.6mm F4 Sigma lens with a field of view equivalent to 28mm on a 35mm film camera.

Sigma's 'True' image processor is incorporated into the DP1, which the manufacturer says will enable the camera to handle the large image files produced by the 14-megapixel sensor. Sigma claims that this technology will reproduce 'exceptional definition with image quality equal to professional digital SLR cameras and on a par with top quality film'.

The compact camera includes JPEG recording format as well as a RAW data (X3F) recording mode for those wishing to make full use of the camera's larger sensor. A large 2.5in TFT LCD monitor with 100% image preview is also featured.

Pricing for the DP1 is yet to be confirmed, with availability in the first half of 2007. For more info visit **www.sigma-imaging-uk.com**

Viewing On *The Move*

Canon and Epson are going head to head in the portable image viewer market, with the announcement of two new models apiece.

First off the blocks comes Canon's **M30** and **M80** storage and viewing devices. The gadgets feature 3.7inch screens with 160° viewing angles and a 30Gb/80Gb hard disk that's compatible with a range of image, movie and sound file formats. Both the M30 and M80 feature a USB 2.0 hi-speed interface and slots for CompactFlash and SD memory cards in addition to robust magnesium alloy bodies.

Epson, meanwhile, has been showcasing its **P3000** and **P5000**, which offer larger capacities and LCD screens than their predecessors and feature Epson Photo Fine Ultra technology. The P3000 features an improved 4inch (640 x 480) LCD viewer, 40GB storage space and the ability to play back video files as well as images. Epson is additionally promising an extended battery

life and the world's first four-colour filter system for improved image quality and colour gamut.

Both manufacturers hope that their viewers will become an important link in the workflow chain of professional photojournalists and photographers on location as well as everyday photographers looking for new ways to store and display favourite shots on the move.

Both Canon and Epson's models will be in stores in time for Christmas. Full details at **www.canon.co.uk** or **www.epson.co.uk**

Poll *Position*

This month's most popular digicams

PriceRunner.co.uk
1. Sony Cyber-shot T30
2. Canon EOS 400D
3. Nikon D80 Black

Amazon.co.uk
1. Canon IXUS 800 IS
2. Canon IXUS 60
3. Sony Cyber-shot W100

DPReview.com
1. Canon Powershot G7
2. Canon EOS 400D
3. Canon IXUS 800 IS

Super Star *Lenses*

Pentax has unveiled prototypes of three new digital SLR lenses designed for use with Pentax digital SLR cameras.

The trio of zoom models are the Pentax-DA* 16-50mm F2.8ED AL[IF], smc Pentax-DA* 50-135mm F2.8ED [IF] and smc Pentax-DA* 60-250mm F4ED [IF]. The lenses have been developed for Pentax K- and *istD SLRs as premium, high-end 'star' lenses. They will feature the Pentax KAF2 mount, which incorporates additional electrical contacts to drive a built-in supersonic motor used in auto focusing.

All three lenses will be available in March 2007. More details are available at **www.pentax.co.uk**

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my beat is the front line. my journal is my camera. i am Ziv Koren and i choose SanDisk®

Ziv Koren's indelible images speak volumes. To capture striking images like these, timing is everything. Ziv relies on SanDisk Ultra® II SD™ Plus memory cards – the hinged, memory cards with a built-in USB adapter. These high-performance cards permit him to quickly download, edit and even transmit breaking news photos to impatient editors half way around the world. As Ziv can tell you, sometimes the secret of getting the story first is all in the workflow.

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Ziv Koren, photographed by Jay Maisel.

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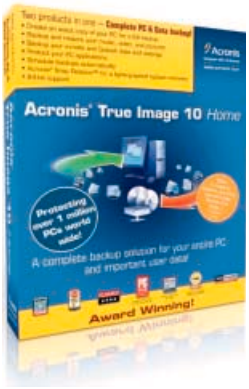
Winners Of The *Wilds*

SnapShots >>

HAVING IT LARGE

HP showcased its latest Designjets at October's Photokina, unveiling the Designjet Z2100 and Z3100 Series Photo Printers for the first time. The new models are the first to make use of HP's Scalable Printing Technology and feature pigment inks, enhanced permanence and the industry's first embedded spectrophotometer. The HP Designjet Z2100 features an eight-colour HP Vivera pigment ink system, while the HP Designjet Z3100 uses a 12-ink HP Vivera pigment ink system with HP 70 Gloss Enhancer and Quad-Black Inks.



BACK UP A LITTLE

A new version of Acronis True Image Home 10 is available priced £39.99. The file and system disk imaging backup and restore software builds upon existing capabilities, which allow for both the backup of an entire system or file-based backup of individual files and folders. The new version goes a step further to enable users to back up specific music, photo and video files, entire applications and email files. Find out more information at www.acronis.com

A SENSITIVE TYPE

BenQ has introduced a new 7MP addition to its compact camera line-up. The E720 features a 3x optical zoom, smc (Super Multi-Coating) Pentax lens and 2.5-inch LCD. In addition to an aluminium exterior, the E720 is equipped with a 'shake-free' mode, 13 scene modes and continuous movie recording with optical zoom. The BenQ E720 supports a higher ISO of 1200, and a trio of aspect ratio output sizes (3:2, 16:9 and 4:3). The E720 will be available from this month and will retail at £139.99.

This is the incredible image that earned Swedish photographer Gîran Ehlmé the title of Shell Wildlife Photographer of the Year over 18,000 rivals. Dubbed 'Beast of the Sediment', it depicts a feeding walrus rising from the sea bed.

'It's got everything, our attention goes straight to the eye,' said judge Mark Carwardine. 'A simple graphic image showing interesting behaviour.'

Ehlmé, an underwater cameraman with 24 years of diving experience, described the moment he took the picture. 'The walrus looked round and we made eye contact,' he said. Ehlmé shot over 400 images, swimming with walruses off northeast Greenland.

American Rick Stanley, 17, was named Shell Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2006 for his photo 'The Dilemma'. The picture, taken during an expedition in the Dominican Republic, shows a Hispaniolan tree frog caught in the jaws of a green vine snake. The judges agreed unanimously that Rick's image was a winner, and judge Tim Flach said, 'On a cursory glance the frog appears to be jumping, but then you notice the snake has grabbed it... then you look at the frog and it seems to be smiling! It's a complete contradiction.'

The Shell Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition is open to visitors at the Natural History Museum – which jointly runs the competiton with BBC Wildlife magazine – until April 29, 2007. To see more of the winning photos, visit **www.nhm.ac.uk/wildphoto**

SHOOT IT! What to shoot this month

5 November
Guy Fawkes Night

For those who read our fireworks tutorial last issue, here's the perfect opportunity to put theory into practice.

5 November
London to Brighton Veteran Car Run

Great examples of late 19th and early 20th Century car history. www.lbvcr.s

7-23 November
London Christmas lights

Expect an after-dark spectacular as Regent Street, Oxford Street and Trafalgar Square light up for Christmas. www.londontown.com

WIN a £20,000 *Hasselblad Camera!*

As part of its 100th anniversary celebrations marking the birth of its founder, Hasselblad is offering photographers from around the world the chance to win key products from Hasselblad's stable of high-end photographic equipment.

For the chance to win either a new Hasselblad H3D or a limited-edition Hasselblad 503CWD camera, photographers can enter the Hasselblad Anniversary Quiz at www.hasselblad.com/anniversary. The quiz, which comprises four rounds running until the 27th November, is based around a fictional young photographer named Pete, who has just been hired by a studio to shoot the photographs for a cookery book. In each of the four rounds, Peter is given a photographic assignment related to different parts of the book. By answering Peter's questions, entrants will be given a chance to win one of the Hasselblad cameras that Peter uses in the photo shoots. Find out full details at **www.hasselblad.com/anniversary**

The *Right Balance*

Intro2020 is to distribute a new concept in accurate camera colour control.

CBL White Balance Lenses are handheld disks that enable the measurement of neutral colour balance by reflecting the light falling onto a subject. The ping pong paddle-like product enables users to take incident readings from a light source itself to calculate colour balance. The lenses come in three sizes, start at £119, and can be found at **www.intro2020.co.uk**

WDC Portrait *Prize Winner*

James Izzard has won What Digital Camera's portrait competition, with this cute black and white creation.

James wins a Canon EOS 30D SLR worth £1,179 and a day's training with Annabel Williams's 'Discovery' days. Commenting on the winning entry, judge and WDC editor Nigel Atherton said, 'As a father myself, I appreciate how hard it is to get youngsters to stay still long enough for a decent picture. James has a delivered an image that is just the right side of cute, while a mono treatment has added a reportage feel that lends it a timeless air.'

11 November
The Lord Mayor's Show
This three-mile carnival procession winds its way through nearly 800 years of London's history. Off with their heads!
www.lordmayorsshow.com

22 Nov - 3 Dec
National Tree Week
A major countrywide festival founded to mark the start of the planting season and celebrate trees and woods.
www.treecouncil.org.uk

30 November
St Andrew's Day
This holy day of the patron saint of Scotland is the perfect opportunity to celebrate Scotland and Scottish culture.
www.visitscotland.com

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Justin Guariglia
Photographer and Video Artist

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The Nokia N73 has been designed to make photography spontaneous. A huge 2.4" viewfinder, a slide cover for quick camera activation, dedicated camera keys for capture, zoom and review, and a toolbar for control of key camera functions. And now it's connected too, with email, Bluetooth™ wireless connectivity and the ability to upload your shots straight to Flickr, the Nokia N73 makes sharing you photos as easy as taking them. Find out more about instant photo sharing at www.flickr.com/nokia

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Best Shot *Selector*

Send us your best photos and win a prize

Wayne *Brittle*

From: Staffordshire

'I'm 45 and have been a keen landscape photographer for 26 years, but particularly since the age of digital. I'll often rise before the sun to capture the magic of the morning light and be home late morning to report for duty at the brewery where I work as a craftsman. I love the great outdoors and am always planning my next trip. I also love panoramas, stitching them manually in Photoshop, and I believe in trying to 'get it right' at the picture-taking stage. I use a Manfrotto tripod and often use a N.D Grad filter on the skies.'
www.waynebrittlephotography.com

Visit www.epson.co.uk or call 0800 220 546 for further information on EPSON products

SUNRISE IN SNOWDONIA
DETAILS: Canon EOS 3 35mm SLR, Fuji Velvia; the slide was scanned
WAYNE SAYS: Taken about 5.30am one hot summer morning not far from Llyn Dinas near Bedgellert in Snowdonia

WE SAY: *Monochromatic compositions like this (which is composed mostly of reddish hues) provide strong visual impact*

AUTUMN FALLS
DETAILS: Olympus E10, 3 sec at f11
WAYNE SAYS: This waterfall was in the Yorkshire Dales. I zoomed in to isolate a section of the waterfall and a small amount of foreground. For the finishing touch, I digitally took the leaf from a separate shot and placed it into the picture so it instantly says 'autumn'

WE SAY: *The contrast between the sharp green foreground and motion-blurred blue background is what makes this shot work for us*

SHAFTS OF LIGHT
DETAILS: Canon EOS 10D with a 17-40mm L Series lens. Exposure was 1/4 sec at f22
WAYNE SAYS: Taken in the grounds of Elvaston Castle in Derbyshire in autumn. I was hoping for the morning mist to be slowly melted away by the rising sun, giving me the chance to capture sunrays. This panorama consists of two images stitched together manually in Photoshop

WE SAY: *Wonderful light, and a flawlessly executed panoramic 'stitch-up'*

WAYNE WINS: AN EPSON STYLUS R800 PRINTER

The Stylus Photo R800 features EPSON's UltraChrome Hi-Gloss pigment ink, to deliver groundbreaking quality, durability and flexibility in printing.

WORTH £249

www.epson.com

CUBAN KNIGHT ANOLE

DETAILS: Nikon D50
DES SAYS: An arboreal lizard that is quick and very well camouflaged. This animal was on display at a zoo in the Czech Republic

WE SAY: *Photographing in zoos can be tricky, but Des has pulled it off here. The shallow depth of field is right on the lizard's eye, where it should be, and any evidence of the captive surroundings excluded*

BANDED DEMOISELLE

DETAILS: Nikon D50
DES SAYS: In my opinion, the Banded Demoiselle is one of the most striking British damselflies, with intricately laced wings and a metallic body in shades of turquoise

WE SAY: *Good light and perfect focusing has enabled Des to emphasise the intricacy of his subject's wings*

Des *Ong*

From: Loughborough

'Born in the tropics, I grew up with a firm interest in nature. This fascination with animals and plants remains the focus of my photographic passion. In an ideal world I would love to be able to make a living by travelling the world and recording all Mother Nature's wonderful creations. All these photographs were captured using my Nikon D50 SLR and processed with Photoshop – mainly for tweaking the levels and curves. I currently own two lenses, a Tamron 28-75mm XR Di and a Nikon 70-300mm f4.5-5.6 ED, plus a set of Kenko extension tubes.'

DES WINS: A COPY OF ADOBE PHOTOSHOP CS2

Adobe Photoshop CS2, the professional image-editing software, features groundbreaking creative tools to help you achieve extraordinary results from your photographs. Photoshop CS2 also boasts more efficient editing, processing and file handling.

WORTH £522

GREEN BUSH CRICKET

DETAILS: Nikon D50
DES SAYS: These are all over my garden at the moment. The green of the insect worked well against a complementary yellow background – which happens to be a shirt on the washing-line!

WE SAY: *Great background! The yellow provides a great contrast to the cricket, and the diagonal composition works very well*

MOTH ON LAVENDER

DETAILS: Nikon D50
DES SAYS: Captured in the southern part of France, with a combination of extension tube and a telephoto lens. As the moth was difficult for the autofocus to lock onto, I switched to manual and managed to catch him in action

WE SAY: *Wow, this is very impressive. Des has done very well to get this shot, given the focusing and timing issues involved*

Kant *Rathod*

From: London

'Photography has been a passion for me since I was given my first SLR, the Zenith E on my 17th birthday. I am self-taught and I'm now hoping to forge a career from my hobby. My approach to photography has been strongly influenced by my experience as a graphic designer. My aim is to capture images with strong light, colour, dynamism and composition. My love for the subject has been progressive from the use of traditional techniques through to the digital age. I now shoot digital only, thanks to the award-winning Nikon D70 and D200. Photoshop is now my darkroom and I spend many rewarding hours there.'

CANARY WHARF

DETAILS: Nikon D70 with 18-70mm lens, digitally enhanced in Photoshop

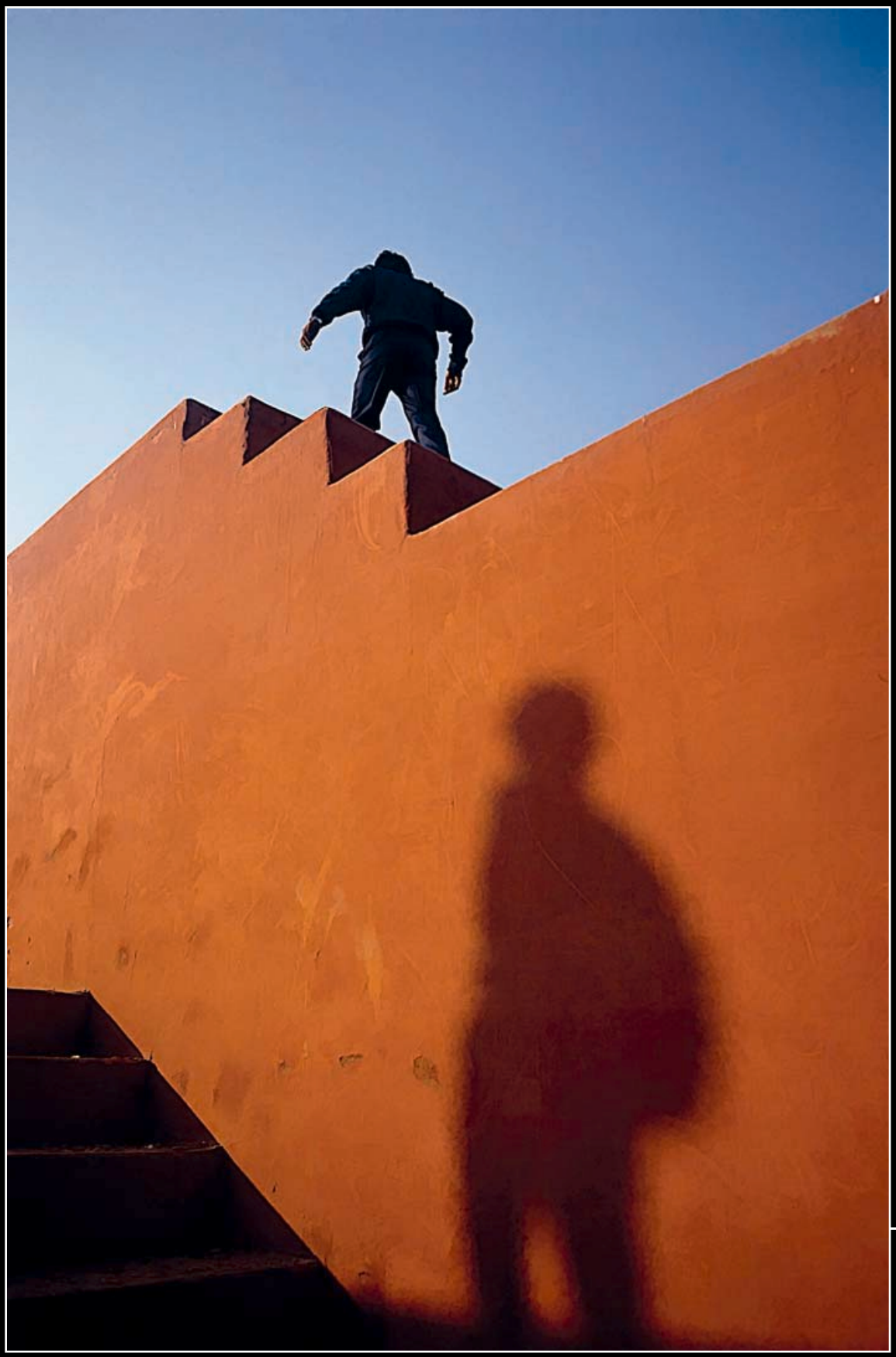
KANT SAYS: Using an unusual viewpoint I took this shot showing the street lamp in Canary Wharf to have an almost building-like presence

WE SAY: *Looking up (and down) for different perspectives on the world can pay dividends. This is a great perspective trick which plays with our sense of relative scale*

KANT WINS: A SANDISK 1GB EXTREME III MEDIA CARD WORTH £46

SanDisk's Extreme III CompactFlash® 1GB media card is designed for professional photographers and is one of the fastest and most durable memory cards on the market. It features ESP technology, giving a minimum 20MB per second sequential read-and-write speed.

WORTH £46



DELHI, INDIA
DETAILS: Olympus OM30 with 28mm lens, digitally enhanced in Photoshop
KANT SAYS: One of my favourite shots taken of the Janter Mantar Observatory in Delhi, India. An unusual and surreal image, with strong colour and light playing a major role in the composition

WE SAY: *Another brilliantly observed shot by Kant. The composition and timing are both flawless too*

CANON EOS 400D

quick view

PRICE £650

- SENSOR: CMOS APS-C 10.5MP/ 10.1MP effective (22.2 x 14.8mm)
- SHUTTER SPEED: 30-1/4000sec+B
- ISO: 100-1600
- EXP MODES: P, AP, SP, M, Sc, ±2EV
- FLASH: Built in/ Hotshoe
- VIEWFINDER/MONITOR: Reflex/ 2.5"
- OTHER: CF I& II, JPEG, RAW, 3fps,PictBridge
- POWER: Li-Ion
- DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT: 126.5 x 94.2 x 65mm/545g

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10 mega pixels

Canon Fire

Canon's highly popular 350D has been replaced with this stonking 10MP model. **Jamie Harrison** is suitably impressed

WHAT DIGITAL CAMERA choice

Right: Images have a rich and 'silky' tonality
Below: The chroma noise is pretty obvious to see in this ISO 1600 image

Canon EOS 400D

Take a look at the past few issues of WDC and our 'Poll Position' box in the news pages will consistently show the EOS 350D as one of the most-searched-for cameras on the internet.

This should change with the demise of that model and the introduction of its successor, the EOS 400D. We knew it had to come – everything gets replaced and new models from Sony and Nikon have outstripped the EOS 350D of its pixel lead with the launch of their 10MP models. So Canon has retorted and replaced the 8MP EOS 350D with a 10MP model. Now, in a game of top trumps, the 400D, Sony Alpha 100 and Nikon D80 would draw if you picked pixels, but the Canon would probably win the popularity contest. Indeed, even the EOS 350D was holding its own, sales-wise, against its higher-resolution rivals.

The EOS 400D is much more than just a more-populated sensor however, with a whole host of new features to make this diminutive camera stand out from the crowd. And those features aren't just for the man on the Clapham Omnibus, but may well appeal to the enthusiast and camera geek too.

FEATURES

Let's first take a look at the sensor. Canon has stuck to its guns, and maintained its allegiance to CMOS, continuing to be the only manufacturer to use this type of sensor in a consumer camera. And Nikon is now using CMOS in its high-end cameras, leading me to the conclusion that this may well be the way forward for image quality and fast processing. It would be interesting to see how many cameras have CCDs in the next few years.

But I digress. As before, Canon has also placed its DIGIC II processor inside the camera, so the image quality and processing speed will continue to maintain the quality that Canon users have grown to love.

Canon has finally addressed one of the big concerns of DSLR users, that of dust on the sensor. This is not new – Olympus has its Supersonic Wave; Sony and Pentax shake the CCD; and Sony also has anti-static coatings. Sigma, meanwhile, has always placed a wipe-clean filter between the lens and sensor. This is the first time Canon has supplied a solution, and has taken a three-pronged attack. First the low-pass filter now vibrates to shake off any debris, using a piezo element. Second, the sensor has an anti-static coating to repel dust in the first place. Finally – and this is the most innovative – the camera features a sensor mapping feature. Essentially, this is achieved by taking a picture of something like a white wall, and activating the mapping feature. The camera can then see where the dust is on the sensor, and then the Canon software can remove the offending articles automatically in subsequent shots. Simply put, it's

see more on the web

Download our Canon 400D test images on our website,

www.whatdigitalcamera.com

front view

The camera is also available in kit form with the 18-55mm f3.5-5.6 II, which was used for the entirety of this test

back view

The new 2.5in LCD has replaced the dual LCD of the 350D, with shooting information displayed on the LCD as you shoot

side view

A rubber door covers the USB port, Video out and Remote control ports. Two buttons on the lens collar opens the pop-up flash and operate depth of field preview

up *against*

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NIKON D80 £630

SONY ALPHA 100 £550

OLYMPUS E330 £720

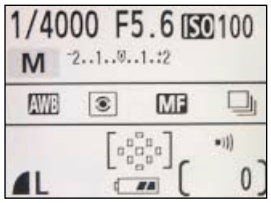
buying *guide*

Turn to page 130 to use our extensive buying guide and we will help you choose the right camera at the right price.

CANON EOS 400D
on test

PROXIMITY SENSOR
These sensors detect when the eye is at the viewfinder and turn off the LCD readout to preserve battery power

PICTURE STYLE
The central button in the main control pad now takes you directly to the Picture Style menu where you can choose a number of imaging parameters for common subjects, or customise your own



SHOOTING INFO
The LCD now shows exposure and camera settings on the 2.5" colour LCD, replacing the grey LCD of the 350D. This is visible when in shooting modes and shows the exposure, exposre modes, battery life, ISO and more. The black-on-white interface is clear and bright and the screen uncluttered – a great improvemement on the old system.

like an automatic Clone tool.

Cleanliness isn't the EOS 400D's only virtue. Canon has also added a new single 2.5inch LCD, which has replaced the dual LCD system of the 350D. Instead of the camera and exposure information being shown on the small grey LCD of old, the large LCD displays this information. A proximity sensor beneath the viewfinder detects when the camera is at your eye and the LCD shuts down when you're shooting. Take the camera away from your eye and it lights up again. Obviously this information is also hidden when you're in menu or preview modes. This is a good system, and one I've admired since Konica Minolta used it on the Dynax 7D, and Olympus on the E300. Unlike the Konica Minolta or Sony models though, the text doesn't rotate when the camera is in portrait mode, which is a shame, but it's still a nice system.

'The text doesn't rotate when the camera is in portrait mode, which is a shame but it's still a nice system'

Another big addition to the camera is a new AF system. The EOS 400D now has nine individually selectable AF points across the frame, to make focusing faster and more accurate. The centre point is enhanced with f/2.8 sensitivity on compatible lenses for better focusing in low light. As is often the case, the technology for this new AF comes from a higher source, in this case the Canon 30D.

One of the bugbears of the older model was its limited burst mode, especially in comparison to cameras such as the Nikon D70.

Faster processing and an improved buffer have improved the situation. The new model offers 27 JPEGs 10 RAWs at 3fps; and this is all the more impressive when you consider the extra processing

image *quality*

So, will the leap from 8 to 10 million pixels make a difference? Not that much: there's only a slight increase in image resolution, and only a narrow margin of difference in the amount of detail recorded.

The JPEG processing corrects most exposure errors quite well, as can be seen by the difference between RAW and JPEG files – the RAWs are slightly darker by about a third of a stop. Colours are good, though there's a propensity to over-saturate – the test charts show 112% saturation, which is higher than its rivals, and a tendency for colours to be warmer. This can also be seen in the Auto White Balance charts, which show a much higher shift than we've seen on other cameras. When it comes to noise, the CMOS sensor behaves very differently to the recent CCD-based models, with more chroma noise. Overall noise levels are very low, especially the luminance, but certain colours and the shadow areas show spikes of noise that we don't get in other models. This can make images look noisier, especially low key or images with a lot of shadows. It's easy enough to fix in Photoshop CS2 too, though. Noise is better controlled in RAW images than JPEGs. Overall, images have a smooth tonality, with well-controlled highlights and an almost silky look which is attractive. Canon tends to produce lower-contrast images than other manufacturers, but the 400D seems to up the contrast just a little, producing (in my view) a better image than that of the 350D.

see more *on the web*
Download our Canon 400D test images on our website
www.whatdigitalcamera.com

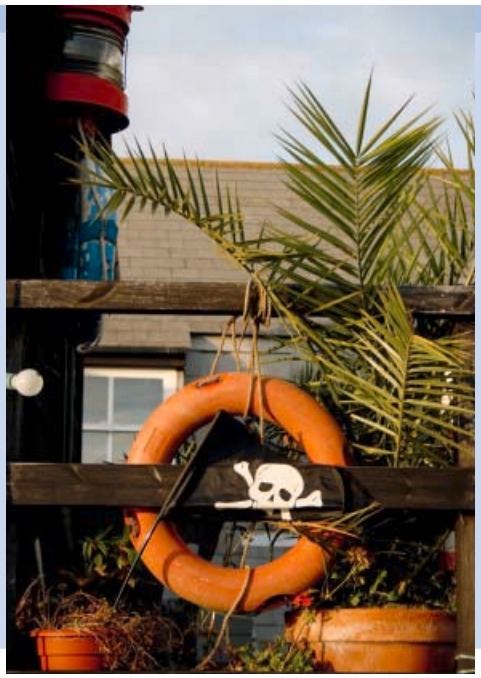
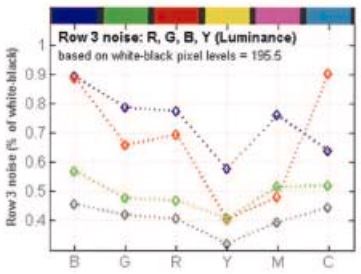


Image *noise*

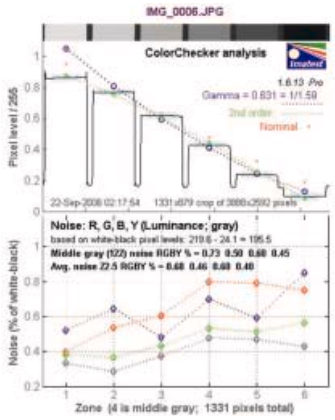
I was concerned about the amount of noise when I first looked at the JPEGs, especially in the shadow areas. In fact, the test charts showed low levels of noise, but with very different graph patterns than those of the Sony or Nikon models. Luminance noise is low, but chroma noise in the red and blue channels is considerably higher, and often 'spikier'. For example, blue channel noise is higher in greens and reds, while the red channel spikes in the cyan range. Similarly both channels show more noise in shadow areas. The good thing about chroma noise is that it's probably the easiest to correct in Photoshop or using a noise-fixing plug-in such as Noise Ninja or Fixer Labs.

LAB results

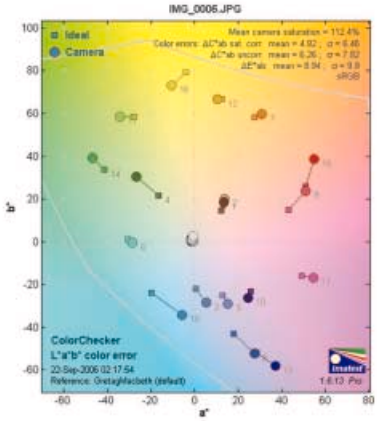
Lab test charts created using Imatest Pro software. For more information on test procedure visit www.imatest.com



HIGH ISO NOISE
Notice the spikes in the red and blue channel. This is a vastly different chart to that of a CCD sensor


IMG_0006.JPG
ColorChecker analysis
Noise: R, G, B, Y (Luminance; gray)
Noise (% of white-black)
Zone (4 is middle gray; 1331 pixels total)

LUMINANCE NOISE
This shows how noise is raised in the shadow areas, with more red channel noise than we'd normally expect, though overall the noise percentage is lower than other models



COLOUR SATURATION
Colours are highly saturated – the mean camera saturation at 112% is higher than some of the 400D's rivals

Above: The 18-55mm kit lens with the EOS 400D offers close-up shooting down to about 28cm

speed that is needed for the larger file sizes.

Like other recent EOS models, Canon has added its Picture Style feature to the 400D. This adds a set of preset 'looks' to the images using a combination of colour, tone and sharpness, which can be added in camera or on the PC via the Picture Style software. There's a choice of Standard, Landscape, Portrait, Neutral, Faithful, Monochrome or three user-defined curves, which you either can make yourself or download additional options from the Canon website and add to the camera via the supplied software. Of course, as this is an 'entry level' camera, there are also scene modes covering the usual Portrait, Landscape, Macro, Action and Night portrait.

> 'The improved LCD is a pleasure to use, and there are a few new developments that make the camera more pleasant'

Other exposure options include Auto, Program, Aperture and Shutter Priority AE modes and Manual, as well as Canon's own A-Dep mode, which automatically sets the correct aperture for maximum depth of field when subjects are in different planes of focus – for example, group photos. This is nothing new, by the way: Canon has had this since the bygone days of film. It does come in useful sometimes, though.

For the histogram addicts among us (and I count myself in that pathetically pedantic group) the EOS 400D now offers not only a brightness histogram but also an RGB histogram display in preview mode. For the less PC minded, there are more PictBridge options – including in-camera redeye removal, face brightening and dual contact sheet printing options (20 or 36 images per page) – so users will find this the easiest Canon SLR yet from which to make direct prints without a PC.

DESIGN

I can't admit to being a fan of the 350D. I found it too fiddly and small for my physiology, especially the right-hand grip. The 400D suffers from the same malady to some extent, and my nails still manage to scrape and scratch the right-sided lens flange. However, the new model has impressed me more than the last. The improved LCD is a pleasure to use, and there are a few new developments that make the camera more pleasant to use. For example, Canon has added a WB adjustment indicator in the viewfinder, which I found useful. The menu continues to evolve, without straying away from the familiar Canon screens. I particularly like the fast access button to the Picture Style menu in the centre of the four-way control (doubles as the 'set' button).

Also of note is the improved ISO display, which is a two-touch system, without having to press the set button every time you change the speed. On the same note, I like the clean interface the camera uses on the LCD to display the exposure settings. It's simple black on slightly off-white, and is clear to see in all lighting situations (unlike those horrible grey LCDs and green illuminations of yore).

A constant complaint I have with Canon is the position of the depth of field button, which is on the left-hand side of the lens, and always causes me trouble when using longer lenses. I almost missed it on the 400D, it's so small and discreet. However, at least the camera has one, I've seen a trend for this to disappear – but I think few people now understand what it's for or how to use it properly.

PERFORMANCE

When you power up or shut down the camera the sensor-cleaning system momentarily kicks in, but this takes about as much time as it takes your finger to move from the power switch to the shutter release button. The most noticeable feature from there is the speed of the AF, which is improved over the previous model. There's a choice

FLASH
Like all SLRs in this midrange market, the 400D has a pop-up flash and hotshoe for dedicated flash units. There's no PC socket for external flash though, so an adapter has to be used for studio lights or hammerhead flashguns

EXPOSURE MODES
The top-placed mode dial features all the usual exposure modes, as well as a selection of scene modes

of focus patterns, including selectable single AF and automatic single AF with easy switching between the two using a combination of the AF selector button and the front command dial.

Depending which mode you are in, exposure settings are generally made with the front command dial. I prefer two dials – one at front and rear – but in manual mode, the dial operates the shutter, while pressing the AV/EV Comp button and simultaneously turning the front dial operates the aperture. That probably sounds more complicated than it is, but I still prefer two dials!

Camera shooting speed is more impressive than previous models. Despite the claims of 27 JPEGs I managed 50secs continuous shooting before

'Camera shooting speed is more impressive than previous models...'

a short slowdown. Overall I shot 158 images in a minute using a SanDisk Extreme III card, which isn't bad at all.

VALUE

The latest round of cameras are all selling at the £600-£700 mark, and the Canon EOS 400D fits well into this price bracket. This is a new sector really – positioned between entry-level models like the Nikon D50 and prosumer models such as the EOS 30D or Nikon D200, even though this is Canon's entry-level model. However, the build, design and features all add up to a well-rounded package that's worth every penny.

VERDICT

There's no doubt that this will be just as successful as the 350D, if not more so. Canon has added some really useful features and made a camera different enough to warrant an upgrade, without changing the basic functionality of previous models. Different but familiar is always a winning formula, and I doubt Canon will be knocked off the top spot by the young pretenders just yet. **WDC**

specifications

MANUFACTURER:	Canon
MODEL:	EOS 400D
PRICE:	£650
CCD:	CMOS sensor APS-C Size 22.2 x 14.8mm 10.5 Total/10.1 MP/3888 x 2592 pixels
MAX PRINT SIZE:	19.5 x 13"@ 200ppi
LENS:	Interchangeable Canon EF/EF-S mount
SHUTTER SPEEDS:	30-1/4000sec & Bulb
ISO:	100-800 +2EV boost
EXP MODES:	Auto, P,A,S,M, 6sc, Picture Style, A-dep, ±2 EV
FLASH:	Hotshoe, Pop-up GN 12m
DRIVE MODES:	Single, continuous 3fps for 10 CR2 RAW images, 27 JPEGs
METER:	35 zone TTL evaluative, with AF point linking, 9% partial and centre weighted average
WHITE BALANCE:	Auto, custom, 7 presets, colour temperature settings, ±3 bracketing, ±9 stop correction
FOCUS:	9 selectable point AF system, wide AF, auto point AF, M
VIEWFINDER:	Optical pentaprism 95% coverage, with diopter adjustment
MONITOR:	230,000 pixels 2.5" LCD 100%
CONNECTION:	USB 2.0
FILE:	Jpeg, RAW (CR2)
FILE SUPPORT:	EXIF 2.2, DCF 2.0, DPOF compliant, Direct Print, PictBridge
VIDEO OUTPUT:	NTSC or PAL
POWER:	Li-ion 720mAh with charger
STORAGE:	CF I&II
DIMENSIONS:	126.5 x 94.2 x 65mm
WEIGHT:	510g

what we *think*

WHAT WE LIKE:
Compact, build quality, dust reduction, improved AF, good RAW file quality

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE:
Chroma noise especially in JPEGs, position of DoF preview button, limited purchase of right-hand grip

the *scores*

FEATURES Specification, controls	18
DESIGN Build, handling, ease of use	18
PERFORMANCE Metering, focus etc	18
IMAGE QUALITY Sharpness, colour etc	17
VALUE Based on RRP	18

89%

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Savings from Manfrotto is what we bring.

The world's leading tripod manufacturer brings you two great Christmas offers with discounted tripod and head combination kits.

Kit 1 consists of a 190D tripod plus 390RC2 head and is ideal for compact DSLR and camcorders. The normal guide retail price is £125 with an offer price of £95, saving you £30.

Kit 2 features an 055CL tripod plus 804RC2 head, suitable for cameras up 4kg, with carry strap. The normal guide retail price of £202 reduced to £149 so you save £53.

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LEARN: How to use exposure creatively when darkness falls

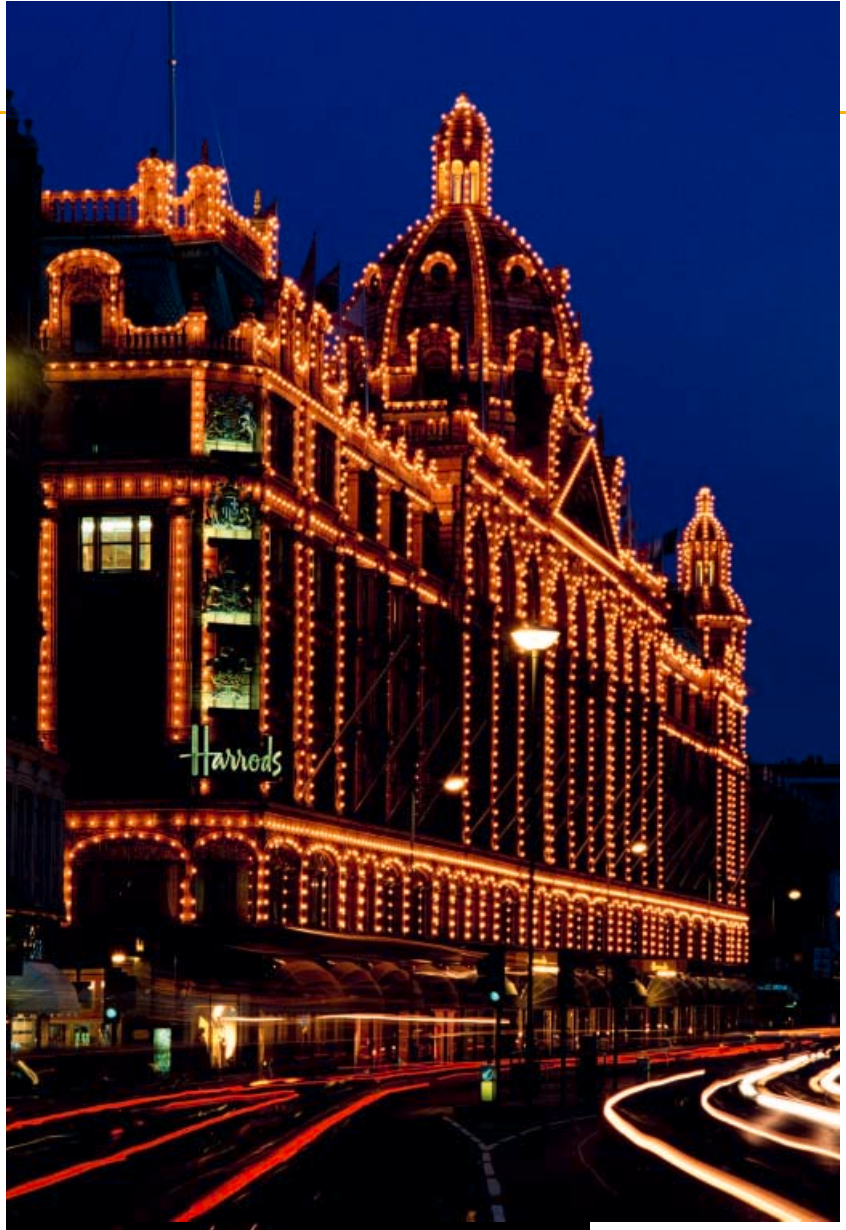
John Freeman's *Guide to...*

Low *Light*

The long nights of winter are the perfect time to get out and shoot atmospheric low-light pictures

While it might mean an extra hour in bed in the morning, winter's longer nights provide countless opportunities for creating exciting and colourful pictures. Whether it is the deep blue sky at twilight, a neon sign or the trails of car lights, the night time can be anything but dark! Digital cameras are perfect for night photography and getting the result right every time, as you can review each shot instantly and check the histogram for faultless exposure.

If I am shooting cityscapes at night my favoured time is what I call the twilight zone. This occurs about half an hour after sunset and lasts for about twenty minutes, so if you want to take full advantage of this period you need to get in position well in advance. The reason I like this time is because the sky takes on a deep blue hue, which offsets the illuminated buildings to best effect. After this time I find that the sky will record as a deep black, which at times might work, but usually I find looks too heavy and isolates the buildings as blobs of light with little detail of their structure. Naturally I use a tripod and cable release so that my shots are pin sharp. Many tripods are not worth the bother and certainly not the money as they can be as stable as handholding the camera; but a good tripod is definitely a worthwhile investment and will be useful for other applications besides night photography. A decent cable release should be purchased at the same time. »



Trails *of light*

I mounted the camera on a tripod together with a cable release and I used a 4sec shutter speed. To ensure the shot was sharp I used the mirror-up facility and the self timer for a smooth shutter release.

Bulb *setting*

Fireworks make great pictures, but it is all too easy to get them wrong. By using the shutter on the B (Bulb) setting you will be able to keep the shutter open for just the right amount of time, as you can close it as soon as you have the burst of light.

SHOOTING LONG EXPOSURES

One of the problems with shooting pictures at night is that longer-than-normal exposure times are required. Many cameras have a shutter setting known as 'bulb'. When the shutter is set to this it will remain open for as long as the shutter release is pressed. This can drain the battery rapidly so ensure you have plenty of backup. However, since many cameras have shutter speeds up to 30 seconds it is unlikely you will need to use this setting.

Another problem with long exposures is 'noise'. This can result in grainy images, which will really show up if you intend to make large prints. Most cameras have a noise-reduction, or long exposure, mode so this should be set before you start shooting. Another area to watch is the ISO setting. There can be a tendency to increase this to cut down on the exposure time, which can be fine, but can also increase the noise. As a rule I would rather use a lower ISO and increase the exposure rather than vice versa. Some cameras are better at reducing noise than others, so only by testing will you determine how effective yours will be. When shooting with a DSLR, and having mounted the camera on a tripod and attached the cable release, I then choose 'mirror up' mode from the menu. During long exposures the camera can vibrate when the shutter is fired, and this mode prevents this. Usually it works through a double action procedure. Having pushed the cable release half way, the mirror goes up. I then wait a few seconds and push the cable release further and the shutter fires. As a final precaution I also set the self-timer so that there can be no possibility of jerking the camera when the shutter is released. The mirror up will not work on the self-timer setting.

Finally shoot RAW if you can. The reason for this is that you will be able to adjust and improve the image in Photoshop later. If you shoot JPEG important information might be discarded as the camera interpolates the image.

FLASH AT NIGHT

It is often necessary to use flash as fill-in light when taking pictures at night: for example, if you are shooting a portrait and the background is made up of neon lighting. The exposure required in a situation such as this will be different for the two areas of the picture, with a longer ambient exposure required for the background. I always find that if I leave the camera to calculate the flash itself, it overexposes by about 1/3rd so I shoot with the flash in its manual mode and decrease the power accordingly. With practice you should be able to judge your flash accurately and compensate accordingly.

Slow-sync flash is another situation where using flash at night can be effective. This is where the flash is combined with a slow shutter speed. This will result in light trails being caught by the ambient exposure while the flash will freeze other detail. Many cameras have what is known as second-curtain synchronisation. This means that the flash fires at the end of the subject movement rather than at the beginning. This provides a more natural effect, creating a trailing blur that emphasises motion. **WDC**

Perfect *Viewpoint*

(Previous page) I chose a low viewpoint for this shot of Sydney's Harbour Bridge and timed it so that I would be in position well before twilight. Once the sky is completely black this type of shot can look dull and flat.

Winter's longer nights provide countless opportunities for colourful and exciting pictures

On *reflection*

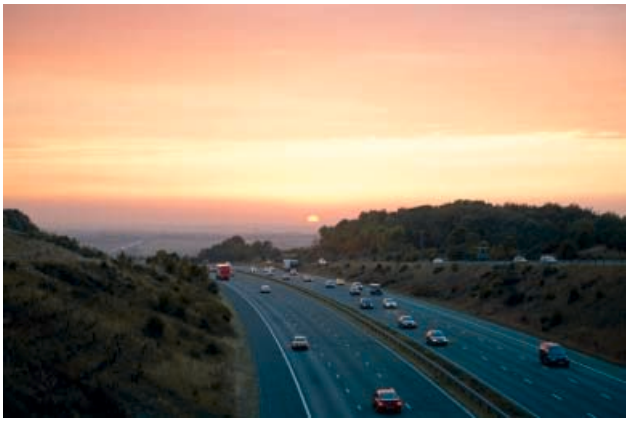
What would have been a fairly drab composition here has been brought to life through the eerie reflection of the lighthouse's beam.

Shutter *speed*

With the camera on a tripod, I chose a 2sec shutter speed. As soon as the shutter had been released, I gradually altered the focal length of the zoom as the shutter remained opened. The highlights of the interior lights add to the picture's abstraction.

Sunset *colour*

The setting sun provides a perfect backdrop for this shot of a motorway. So as not to lose the detail in the sky, I used a graduated neutral density filter to even up the exposure between sky and foreground.



White *Balance*

In this shot (above right), the camera's white balance was set to the daylight setting, which would seem sensible as the picture was taken outdoors. However, the sky looks dull and the building, lit by tungsten light, looks unnaturally orange. With the white balance setting changed to the tungsten setting (above left), the sky becomes far brighter and the lights shining on the building look more realistic.

Useful Kit For *Night Photography*

TRIPOD

For blur-free images at the longer shutter speeds necessary for creative night shooting, a tripod is essential to keep your camera steady. It's worth spending that little bit extra for a decent model, as a good tripod can last a lifetime and prove its worth in more situations than night shoots. Velbon's DX-888 is designed for digital cameras and features a versatile 3-way pan and tile head. Manfrotto's Magfibre range is a similarly wise buy.

FLASH

While by no means essential for night photography, a flash gun can be useful. A burst of flash during a time exposure can be used to light a person or fill in foreground detail. You can even use multiple flash techniques to light buildings. With the TTL flash systems in most DSLRs, exposure calculation is easy. There are many options, but the new Metz range looks good. The powerful 58 AF-1 offers dual flash heads for simultaneous bounce and fill-in, and dedication with Canon or Nikon systems.

LENS

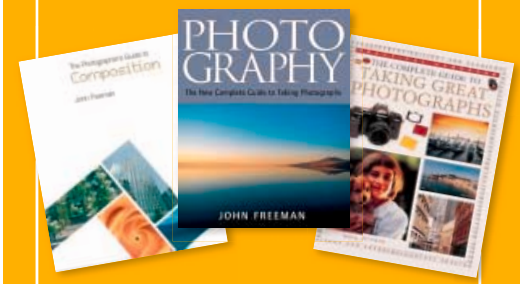
Both wide and tele lenses have their uses in night photography. Wideangles let you get whole buildings in shot more easily, or go in close for more impact; while telephotos let you compress distance by, say, shooting down a street lit with Christmas lights. Try to go for a lens with a wide maximum aperture, to ensure a bright viewfinder image and enable shorter exposure times. They don't come much wider than Canon's new 50mm, with its f/1.2 max aperture – if you can spare £1150!

WHAT DIGITAL CAMERA

John's Top Tips
Low-light shooting

1. If you're serious about creating sharp images, it's essential to invest in a good tripod and cable release.
2. Try to shoot at twilight rather than when the sky is completely black. This will ensure better exposures and more colourful images.
3. When composing an after-dark frame, try to shoot at a lower ISO and increase exposure rather than shoot at a higher ISO and a shorter exposure.
4. If you are shooting in wet conditions make sure that the camera is well protected. Something as simple as a plastic bag should do the job.
5. If you can, shoot RAW rather than JPEG. Due to low light levels, you will need to gather all the information from a scene that you can get.

JOHN *FREEMAN*



John's clients include some of the country's biggest companies. He has illustrated well over 100 books, covering subjects as diverse as cookery, health, travel and home interiors. He has also sold more than a million copies of his glossy photography manuals, of which he has written more than a dozen.

John also sells fine art photography from his own gallery in London's prestigious Oxo Tower. He has fully digital kit, and mainly uses a Canon EOS 1DS SLR with a variety of lenses. John's website is at: **www.johnfreeman-photographer.com**

For more John Freeman books see our website whatdigitalcamera.com/books

you can

Canon

Pro-skater Geoffrey van Hove looms large over Berlin in a mural by street artists Unruly Machine. Created using a tiled photograph printed on a PIXMA iP4300. Go to **www.canon.co.uk/pixma** for more inspiring print ideas.

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FUJIFILM FINEPIX S6500FD

6 mega pixels 10.7x zoom

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back view

The S6500 has a clean user interface with few buttons to worry about, though this makes it very menu driven

top view

The SLR-like camera body has a pop-up flash, though no hotshoe. The mode dial is in easy reach on the top plate

side view

The lens has a mechanical rotating zoom ring; better than an electronic rocker switch found on some other cameras

Fujifilm FinePix S6500fd

Bridge camera with six megapixels

Tested by *Jamie Harrison* **£300** www.fuji.co.uk

Bridge cameras may not have the sex appeal of SLRs, but they continue to sell well, and offer something a little different. The S6500fd has got the *de rigueur* long zoom, offers RAW, manual control, scene modes and so on. But it also has features not seen on a camera of this type.

FEATURES

Let's get the zoom out of the way first – it's an eminently useful 28-300mm lens, offering something for wideangle fans as well as tele folks. Unlike some other models we've seen recently, Fujifilm hasn't used image stabilisation in the S6500fd, relying instead on its high ISO. Fujifilm has been leading the pack in this area since the F10 compact and pushing the boundaries further with the F30's ISO 3200, a speed matched here.

The big news on the S6500fd though, is the new face-detection facility (hence the fd suffix). The camera uses algorithms to recognise the eyes and mouth on a human face, and locks onto the subject no matter where it is in the frame. Fujifilm also claims it works with groups of up to 10 people too.

DESIGN

The S6500fd follows the design of Fujifilm classics such as the S5000 and S9000. It has an SLR-lite look and, despite the powerful zoom, maintains a relatively small size. It's comfortable to hold and most of the controls are easily to hand. There are few of those on the outside though, this is stripped-back design, though there's a full complement of the usual digicam controls within the main menu and finepix menu (for ISO, colour and quality).

PERFORMANCE

The face detection works well – if 'well' can be defined as 'more-often-than-not'. It's not 100%, but as an advance in camera technology, it's impressive.

What's less impressive is the camera's electronic viewfinder, which has poor detail and a slow refresh rate, not to mention an annoying propensity to give no idea as to the image's exposure accuracy. I found I just couldn't rely on it – luckily there's a histogram option. But what about Mr and Mrs Average, who just want to take pictures on holiday?

VALUE

It's a well-made camera, at an average price and produces average images.

VERDICT

The camera is let down by a poor viewfinder and a combination of overeager JPEG compression and image noise. As much as I like a high ISO, the additional processing is causing problems. **WDC**

quick specs

- **SENSOR** 1/1.7inch Super CCD HR (Total 6.3MP, Effective 6.1MP)
- **LENS** 28-300mm f/2.8-4.9
- **SHUTTER SPEED** 30-1/4000sec
- **ISO** Auto, 100-3200
- **EXPOSURE MODES** M,A,S,P, Sc, ±2EV
- **FLASH** 3.8m (W)/2.8m (T) GN approx 6.8
- **VIEWFINDER/MONITOR** EVF/ 2.5in 235,000 pixel LCD
- **OTHER** 640x480 30fps Video, xD, 10MB internal, RAW
- **POWER** 4xAA
- **DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT** 131 x 98 x 128mm/ 700g

what we think

WHAT WE LIKE:
High build quality, interesting technology, good lens range, face-detection feature, compact size considering the zoom size

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE:
Some image noise, loss of detail, poor-quality electronic viewfinder (EVF), few on-body controls

the scores

FEATURES Specifications, controls	17
DESIGN Build, handling, ease of use	16
PERFORMANCE Metering, focus etc	16
IMAGE QUALITY Sharpness, colour etc	15
VALUE Based on RRP	15

79%

image quality

Fujifilm cameras are always good for colour. Exposure, too, is good, and there's no denying the sharpness of the lens. However, the JPEG algorithms seem harsh, edges break up and fine detail is sometimes lost. I'm not happy with the level of noise either. At high ISOs images have an almost painterly look. If you plan to enlarge the images, I'd recommend a tripod and lower ISO.

Good colour and sharpness but images don't stand close scrutiny
• Download this and other test images on the website

up against

RICOH CAPLIO 500G

TURN TO OUR BUYING GUIDE ON PAGE 130 FOR INDIVIDUAL CAMERA SPECIFICATIONS

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Canon

Whatever you're into, the PIXMA iP4300 with FINE print head technology will enhance your world. Use the cost saving Single Ink system to create tiled photographs, DVD/CDR labels or even double-sided prints. And with a PictBridge port for direct photo prints from your camera it's never been easier. Go to **www.canon.co.uk/pixma** to find out more inspiring print ideas.

PIXMA iP4300

My way,
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OLYMPUS MJU 750

7 mega pixels **5x zoom**

quick specs

- **SENSOR** 7.1MP effective, 1/2.33" CCD
- **LENS** 6.4-32mm (36-180mm) f/3.3-5
- **SHUTTER SPEEDS** 4-1/2000sec
- **EXPOSURE MODES** P, 23 Sc, Mov
- **ISO** Auto, 80-1600
- **FLASH** 3.8 (W) 2.7M(T)
- **VIEWFINDER** None
- **MONITOR** 2.5in LCD, 215,000 pixels LCD
- **OTHER** xD, Weatherproof, Image Stabiliser
- **POWER** Li-Ion cell
- **DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT** 96 x 54 x 24.3mm/120g

what we think

WHAT WE LIKE: All-weather protection, Stabilisation, ISO

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE: Shadow noise, Auto ISO not always accurate

the scores

FEATURES Specifications, controls	17
DESIGN Build, handling, ease of use	18
PERFORMANCE Speed, metering, focus etc	16
IMAGE QUALITY Sharpness, colour etc	17
VALUE Based on RRP	16

84%

Olympus Mju 750

Boasting image stabilisation, it's the compact Mju 750

Tested by *Jamie Harrison* **£300** www.olympus.co.uk

Olympus announced two very similar models in the shape of the Mju 740 and 750. The more-interesting one – and the one we're looking at – is the 750, which unlike its stablemate has mechanical image stabilisation.

FEATURES Besides image stabilisation, the Mju 750 also has Olympus Bright Capture technology, with a top ISO speed of 1,600, getting the best of both worlds in low light. Bright Capture also increases the brightness of the LCD in low light.

DESIGN Like other Mjus, the 750 features an all-weather casing. The wedge-shaped design is easy to hold, and the new design of the four-way controller on the back is attractive and not fiddly for those with oversized digits.

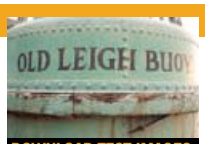
PERFORMANCE This is a simple compact to use, with the usual array of scene modes and program AE, so don't expect masses of control. However, the Bright Capture technology works well enough in dark places, making this an ideal party camera.

IMAGE QUALITY In general, image quality is more than acceptable, though there is some concern about shadow noise, even at ISO 80. Incidentally, in low light the auto ISO still remains at ISO 80, so thank heavens for the image stabilisation...

VALUE Street prices are better than the RRP, and not many lifestyle cameras can offer the same level of protection or zoom range.

VERDICT

The Mju 750 continues Olympus's reputation as a convenient easy-to-use compact, that mostly does what it's supposed to. **WDC**



DOWNLOAD TEST IMAGES

OLYMPUS MJU 725SW

7 mega pixels **3x zoom**

quick specs

- **SENSOR** 1/2.33" CCD 7.38MP
- **LENS** 6.7-20.1mm (38-114mm) f/3.5-5.0
- **SHUTTER SPEED** 4-1/1000 sec
- **ISO** 80-1600
- **EXPOSURE MODES** P, 25 scene modes, Mov
- **FLASH** GN 6.8m
- **VIEWFINDER** None
- **MONITOR** 2.5in LCD 115,000 pixels
- **OTHER** Shockproof and waterproof, xD card, 15fps 640x480 pixels video clips
- **POWER** Li-ion with battery charger
- **SIZE/WEIGHT** 91 x 58.7 x 19.8mm/149g

what we think

WHAT WE LIKE: Solid build and feel; shockproof and waterproof

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE: Fringing, lens flare, noise and camera shake, plus priced at a slight premium

the scores

FEATURES Specifications, controls	17
DESIGN Handling, ease of use	17
PERFORMANCE Speed, metering, focus etc	17
IMAGE QUALITY Sharpness, colour etc	17
VALUE Based on RRP	16

84%

Olympus Mju 725SW

Hard-bodied compact gets minimal upgrade

Tested by *Gavin Stoker* **£300** www.olympus.co.uk

Available in a choice of three colours, the Olympus mju 725SW is similar to its Mju 720 SW predecessor in many ways.

FEATURES It features a 3x zoom, claims to be shockproof when dropped a distance up to 1.5m, and is waterproof to depths of 5m (the 720 managed three). Its top ISO speed is 1600.

DESIGN With the back dominated by the 2.5in LCD, there's no optical viewfinder. Attendant controls are small, but responsive. The 725's all-metal body is rugged and slots easily into both palm and pocket.

PERFORMANCE The 725 powers up instantly. There's little shutter lag and write time is similarly swift, though it's easy for fingertips to stray into shot. If we're nit picking, the LCD displays ghosting under artificial light. Still, the menu screens are very easy to navigate.

IMAGE QUALITY Typically, there's evidence of purple fringing between areas of high contrast, and colours are slightly washed out when compared with the vivid default results from competing compacts. Shots in less than bright light are soft due to camera shake – despite the dedicated image stabilisation setting – plus there's visible noise.

VALUE The 725SW is at the top of the price bracket for its class; you're paying a premium for its rough and tumble features and sealed, all-metal build.

VERDICT

Outwardly desirable, but pictures lack punch. Still, when dropped the Mju 725SW gives hope to the butter-fingered by coming back for more rather than shattering. **WDC**

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SIGMA

OUR WORLD

ANDY BELCHER: Born 1948, U.K. Emigrated to New Zealand in 1972, drawn by a fascination with nature. Winner of 108 awards for underwater and adventure photography. Renowned worldwide for unique expertise in creating portraits and other photographs across diverse genres.
Photo data: SIGMA Macro 70mm F2.8 EX DG, 1/125-second exposure at f/3.5.

ANDY BELCHER SHOOTS THE WORLD WITH A SIGMA LENS

The cool luster of a Paua shell offsets the brilliant mantis to produce this striking image.

This unusual contrast of colours and textures was captured by the SIGMA 70mm macro lens. The DG lens is compatible with both digital and film SLRs and features three SLD (Special Low Dispersion) glass elements which effectively correct and minimise optical aberrations. A floating focusing mechanism assures exceptional image quality, from 1:1 life-size to infinity. Super multi-layer coating reduces flare and ghosting. Handling and performance are enhanced by the addition of a focus-limiter switch and a magnification scale. A fitted padded case is included along with a threaded, screw-in lens hood which facilitates the attachment of filters.

NEW

Available for: SIGMA, Canon EOS, Nikon(D) , Sony and Pentax SLR cameras.

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BENQ DC P500

5 mega pixels **5x zoom**

quick *specs*

- **SENSOR** 4.9MP CCD
- **LENS** 5.8-29mm (35-180mm) f/2.8-4.7
- **SHUTTER SPEEDS** 4-1/2000sec
- **EXPOSURE MODES** P, M, Sc, Mov
- **ISO** Auto, 100-400
- **FLASH** 0.5-2m
- **VIEWFINDER** No
- **MONITOR** 2.5in LCD, 230,000 pixels
- **OTHER** SD, 32MB Int, 30fps Mov
- **POWER** Li-ion
- **DIMENSIONS/ WEIGHT** 96 x 60 x 29.6mm/165g

what we *think*

WHAT WE LIKE: Price, good for complete novice

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE: Weird EXIF, over sharpening, limited, slow

the *scores*

FEATURES Specifications, controls	15
DESIGN Build, handling, ease of use	15
PERFORMANCE Speed, metering, focus etc	15
IMAGE QUALITY Sharpness, colour etc	15
VALUE Based on RRP	16

76%

BenQ DC P500

Basic entry-level 5MP compact

Tested by *Jamie Harrison* **£140** www.benq.co.uk

The P stands for 'performance', which begs the question: What kind of performance can we expect from a 5MP compact for £140?

FEATURES This is a fairly basic camera, despite the Performance tagline. With basic exposure control, and a manual mode that doesn't seem to do very much at all. It does offer a Pentax 5x zoom, and 30fps video.

DESIGN This is a solid if somewhat boxy model, but looks better than many other entry-level models thanks to its metal shell. The 2.5-in LCD screen is a welcome treat for a camera in this price range, while the controls are average.

PERFORMANCE The key word here. The camera's a little slow to start up, and there's some shutter lag too, which is expected to some degree on compacts, but this is worse than we'd expect. Strangely, the EXIF showed all my exposures were f/1 at 1 second at ISO 99. Every image was also tagged with 'My beautiful picture' in the description box!

IMAGE QUALITY My beautiful pictures are surprisingly reasonable, if a little over processed. Noise is visible in shadows, but there's plenty of detail and sharpness. Exposures are good too, despite the weird EXIF.

VALUE The addition of the 5x zoom makes this reasonably priced for absolute beginners, but there are better cameras available.

VERDICT

This is hardly a performance model. But it might pass muster for someone wanting more than mobile phone pictures. **WDC**

SANYO XACTI VPC-CA6

6 mega pixels **5x zoom**

quick *specs*

- **SENSOR** 1/2.5" CCD (1cm) 6MP
- **LENS** 6.3-31.7mm (38-190mm) f/3.5-4.7
- **SHUTTER SPEED** 1/2-1/2000 sec
- **ISO** Auto, 50-400
- **EXPOSURE MODES** Program, 7 Scene, Mov
- **FLASH** GN 3m
- **VIEWFINDER** None
- **MONITOR** 2in LCD 86,000 pixels
- **OTHER** SD, 30fps MPEG-4 video clips, water resistant
- **POWER** Li-ion with battery charger
- **SIZE/WEIGHT** 77 x 100 x 36mm/155g

what we *think*

WHAT WE LIKE: Eye-catching design, reasonable pricing and output

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE: No way of protecting LCD screen, plastic feel, slow and rather clunky in operation

the *scores*

FEATURES Specifications, controls	16
DESIGN Handling, ease of use	16
PERFORMANCE Speed, metering, focus etc	15
IMAGE QUALITY Sharpness, colour etc	17
VALUE Based on RRP	17

81%

Sanyo Xacti VPC-CA6

Water-resistant hybrid camera

Tested by *Gavin Stoker* **£300** www.sanyo.co.uk

Like its C6 predecessor, the CA6 sports a 6MP resolution and 5x optical zoom, but adds a body resistant to water, snow and wet hands.

FEATURES Both JPEG stills (interpolated up to a max 10MP if required) and MPEG-4 format, stereo sound video are recorded to a bundled 1GB SD card. There's no dock included this time, but with a mains charger, AV and USB leads, it isn't missed.

DESIGN This latest Xacti's plastic body is closely moulded to the shape of a palm, and feels solid despite the lack of metal. One gripe: as the LCD cannot be rotated and stored flush to the body when inactive, its screen quickly attracts finger-prints. Main controls fall readily under the thumb, yet it's easy to let your forefinger stray in front of the lens. Finding a firm grip is tricky.

PERFORMANCE Powering up in just over a second, you have to press the 'photo' button quite firmly, and there's a three-second wait to review the shot if switching from record to review mode.

IMAGE QUALITY Exposure is even, colours natural, and purple fringing between areas of high contrast is only noticeable upon close inspection.

VALUE With a 1GB card, and £200 cheaper than its predecessor on launch, the Xacti CA6 is great value.

VERDICT

Slightly fiddly to use and slow, but images are better than expected. The wow factor of its looks and a street price of £250 go some way to making this critic-proof. **WDC**

Metz
Always first class

Flash for digital

Metz 54 MZ 4 & 54 MZ 4i

- Max GN 54 (m) 177 (ft) with ISO 100/21°
- Adapter system SCA 3002 and SCA 300
- Secondary reflector
- Automatic zoom 24 - 105mm
- Wide-angle diffuser 20mm
- Tilt and swivel reflector (-7°-+90° / 360°)
- LC Display
- Cordless A and TTL remote system
- Modelling light
- 25 partial lighting levels
- Autofocus measuring beam
- A / M / TTL / Strobe / Nikon 3D / Canon E-TTL mode
- Nikon D-TTL mode / i-TTL mode (54 MZ 4i N)
- High speed synchronization
- Flash ready and correct exposure indication
- Power sources: AA batteries, rechargeable batteries, P76
- Flash recovery time: 0.1 - 6 seconds
- Minimum number of full flashes: 180

Metz 44AF 4

- Max GN 44 (m) 144 (ft) with ISO 100/21°
- Full dedicated flash for Canon / Minolta / Nikon
- Automatic zoom 24 - 105mm
- Swivel reflector
- LC Display
- M and TTL mode
- 1 partial lighting level
- Autofocus measuring beam
- D-TTL mode / 3D mode / i-TTL mode (Nikon)
- E-TTL / HSS mode (Canon)
- Flash ready indication
- Correct exposure indication
- Automatic cut off
- Power sources: 4 AA batteries
- Flash recovery time: 0.2 - 5 seconds
- Minimum number of full flashes: 240

For full product information please contact Intro2020 Ltd.
Priors Way, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 2HP
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TYPE: All-in-one device **CONNECTION** USB 2.0, SD/MMC, Mini SD (with adaptor), CF Type I&II, MS, MS DUO (with adaptor), XD

With all-in-one machines experiencing a sales boom alongside DSLRs, it's no surprise to find another such device on the *WDC* reviews slab.

Promising to deliver lab-quality photo prints and laser-quality documents, this sturdily built, all-encompassing unit is probably best suited to the small office/home office. With fastest photo output set at just 12 seconds for a 6x4in print, the C5180 employs six HP Vivera inks and features a useful 2.4in colour screen for earmarking images without the need for a PC (connectivity is via USB 2.0 if you do). Setting up the device takes five to ten minutes, from unwrapping and slotting in each cartridge, to the machine carrying out its alignment tests ready for the first activity. You're guided through each stage by on-screen prompts.

Once this is done, a borderless 6x4in print can be output in a minute, with A4 delivered in double that – in truth a fairly average performance for its class. However, the six-ink cache is a distinct advantage, providing a naturalistic range of colour tones. Using HP's own branded paper, prints are also almost immediately dry to the touch, and operation is unobtrusively quiet which means you can leave it printing away in the background while you concentrate on something else. Scans can also be made without the need to hook the C5180 up to a computer, scanning direct to memory card or creating a new photographic print from an original. Using the copier facility, I also produced a reasonable-looking reproduction on plain paper, though it was slow to output.

Having a built-in screen is real boon, as it also allows users to carry out rudimentary image adjustments such as rotating shots, making crops, zooming in or removing redeye. You can also add some fairly useless-looking frames or colour filter effects. Handily, there are also slots for the most common memory cards, with newer types requiring a supplementary adaptor. You also get the added ability to personalise CDs or DVDs with photos and text by printing directly onto HP CD/DVD tattoos.

VERDICT
This is a versatile machine as much about sharing as anything else. For the complete package, the price is also keenly competitive. WDC

the *scores*

87%

18 features
18 ease of use
16 performance
17 results
18 value

WHAT WE *LIKE:*
Easy to use and set up, quiet in operation, well-saturated prints, reasonably priced

WHAT WE *DON'T LIKE:*
Weighs a ton with a large footprint, average speed performance when printing photos edge to edge

Jessops *300 AFDC Flashgun*

Nifty flash unit for DSLR users

TYPE Flash Unit **£100** www.jessops.co.uk

Suitable for use with DSLRs, this reasonably priced third-party branded digital TTL/autofocus flash unit with tilting bounce and zoom head is compatible with Canon, Nikon and Pentax mounts.

Once you've slid the unit into your camera's hotshoe, there's a screw-like locking ring to secure it in place. There are four manual flash zoom positions: 28mm, 35mm, 50m and 85mm, while it can be tilted through 90°, from facing straight ahead to pointing at the ceiling.

Powered by four batteries (which you'll have to supply yourself), it charges up in a thrice and boasts a guide number of 30m at ISO100 when set at a 50mm focal length. Lightweight (at 250g) and plasticky it may be, but it's perfectly usable. Better still, if you buy the unit from Jessops in conjunction with a DSLR, the flash comes half price.

the *scores*

WHAT WE *LIKE:*
Ease of use and reasonable value for money

WHAT WE *DON'T LIKE:*
Obvious plastic feel

17 features
18 ease of use
17 performance
16 design
18 value

86%

Manfrotto *Modo 785B tripod and Modo 790B monopod*

www.manfrotto.com

From £17 (monopod) and £50 (tripod)

A pair of 'pods for professionals

TYPE Tripod and monopod

Here's a pair of lightweight and portable new 'digital' pods from Manfrotto: the Modo 790B is a monopod, while the Modo 785B is a tripod.

Aimed at achieving pro-quality results, not to mention creative flexibility, the attractive aluminum alloy tripod has a joystick-controlled ball head with a quick-release plate and is suitable for use with either stills or video cameras (users can switch at the turn of a dial).

To get set up with the minimum of fuss the tripod's legs are lever locking, with a dividable centre column so the tripod can be used for low-angle work at a height of 17.5cm from the ground if required (maximum height is 105.5cm). Rubber feet mean you're protected against slippage. Overall the tripod is easy to adjust, the flexibility of the ball head affording a wide range of creative angles. The build mix of metal and rubber lends it a nicely tactile feel. It also looks like a very cool modern alternative to the traditional photographer's 'pod.

For when there's not room to splay out the legs of the tripod, the five-section monopod is of a similarly stylish and solid, yet lightweight, construction with a maximum extendable height of 17.1-inches, down to a minimal 6.9-inches. A rubber cap protects the screw thread at the top. Designed to support a weight up to 1kg, we comfortably attached a Nikon D70 and lens without any stability problems.

For outdoor photographers, there are optional bags available for both, and the pricing can't be argued with.

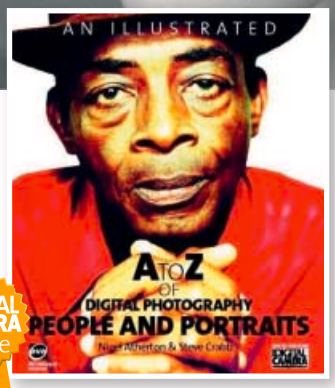
the *scores*

WHAT WE *LIKE:*
Lightweight and flexible, yet reassuringly sturdy, plus cool design and good value for money

WHAT WE *DON'T LIKE:*
Not much at all really

18 features
19 ease of use
20 performance
19 design
19 value

95%



A to Z of Digital Photography
People & Portraits

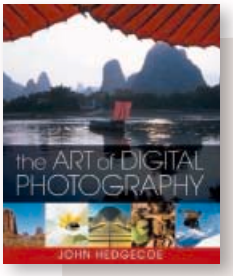
£22.50 Nigel Atherton & Steve Crabb
Published by: AVA

Created by *WDC* staff Nigel Atherton and Steve Crabb, *A to Z...* is a sequel title to 2004's *An Illustrated A to Z of Digital Photography*, focusing on the technical and creative considerations surrounding the world's number one photographic subject matter.

Spread across 176 tip-packed pages, there's plenty to get your teeth into: from standard lighting and compositional considerations through to the challenges posed by more specialist disciplines such as environmental portraiture and glamour photography. Digital workflow is emphasised at all stages, reflecting not only the technical issues relating to ditching film, but also the world of editing possibilities that has opened up to users of digital cameras.

Through a modern and clean layout with over 100 high-quality images, *A to Z...* bypasses jargon to offer a well-rounded and approachable guide that provides plenty of inspiration for beginners without alienating more-experienced photographers.

The A-Z format brings a logical order to what is an inherently multi-faceted subject genre, which therefore recommends the book as a desktop reference. In shops in time for Christmas, this colourful and insightful tome will no doubt make a welcome addition to many a photo-enthusiast's stocking come the 25th. **89%**



The Art Of Digital Photography

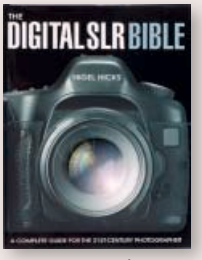
John Hedgecoe
Published by: DK

£20

There's more to taking photographs than knowing your scene modes from your CCD, and John Hedgecoe's latest manual seeks to educate camera users on how to inject a little more creativity into their images.

Using over 500 photos, Hedgecoe provides inspiration as well as instruction as he counts down some of the key issues involved in the art of photography. From capturing balance in a composition to photographing abstracts and patterns, there's a useful range of subjects covered that will help more-inexperienced photographers raise their game. **84%**

The Digital SLR Bible



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Nigel Hicks
Publisher: D&C

The Digital SLR Bible is a great guide to the camera that is fast becoming the choice for enthusiasts of all levels.

Focusing on the key abilities of SLR cameras, some space is sadly wasted comparing digital and film workflows before Hicks begins the business of running through the abilities of today's SLRs. Practical techniques are a little thin on the ground, thanks to Hicks's preference for description over instruction, but the tome does offer a useful background to the key issues surrounding SLR photography. **79%**

101 Great Things To Do With Your Digital Camera

£14.99

Simon Joinson
Published by: D&C

Fresh from the author of *Get The Most From Your Digital Camera* comes a new photography book with 'stocking filler' stamped all over it. *101 Great Things...* does exactly what it says on the tin – delivering a multitude of activities and techniques that can be explored with little more than a simple digicam. While camera tricks such as 'use the rule of thirds' are not exactly new, other featured tips offer readers more enjoyable and productive avenues of creative digital exploration. **85%**

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Kingston TECHNOLOGY

Jungle Book

Thomas Marent's spectacular tribute to the world's rainforests was six years in the making. Nigel Atherton caught up with him

Left: Fern, La Planada Nature Reserve, Colombia. Nikon's 200mm Macro was Thomas's most used lens

Above: New Zealand's Fiordland National Park gets so much rain it has never been inhabited by humans

Poisonous snakes, blood-sucking leeches, flash-exposure compensation – these are just a few of the challenges faced by Swiss photographer Thomas Marent in the making of his stunning new book on the world's jungles. *Rainforest: A Photographic Journey* leaves us with a sense of wonder at the beauty and diversity of the natural world, yet behind the glossy pages is a tale of incredible dedication. It began 16 years ago when, after attending an English language course in Sydney, Australia, Thomas stayed to explore the East coast and stumbled upon the rainforests of Queensland.

'I'd never seen anything like it,' he recalled. 'So green, so lush. It was beautiful.' He was smitten. Shortly afterwards, he spent six months backpacking through the length of Central and South America, travelling almost entirely by bus – a journey which took Thomas through the rainforests of Costa Rica and to the Amazon for the first time.

Since then he has made three or four trips per year to rainforests all over the world, doing a variety of jobs in between in order to pay for it all – including working as a draughtsman and on a butterfly farm.

'Rainforests offer the greatest diversity of life on earth,' enthuses Thomas. 'There's so much to photograph, and you never know what you'll see next.'

As obsessions go, however, Thomas picked one of the most difficult and challenging. Few environments in the world are as hostile to photographers as the rainforest. First there is the extreme heat and humidity to contend with, and the moisture from condensation. Second, there is the difficulty in finding the often small and well-camouflaged subjects in the dense jungle.

'I spent a lot of time researching animal behaviour, and studying the places where they go to eat and drink,' says Thomas, who has no formal training in biology, zoology or photography. 'After a while I came to learn about the behaviour of the animals I was photographing, so that I was able to work without them being aware of my presence.'

From a photographic standpoint the biggest technical challenge was the low light levels. 'I found that natural light produced the best results and strived to avoid flash,' reveals Thomas. 'But on the forest floor there is very little light so, at the small apertures of f/11 and f/16 that I prefer to use, this meant I usually had to use long exposure times, often up 30 seconds, with the camera on a tripod. When I did use flash I tended to use it more as a fill, just to lift the image, so I'd set the flash to about 2-3 stops underexposure to keep it subtle.'

'Chiggers get through your clothes and burrow under the surface of your skin'

ATTACKED BY THE WILDLIFE

All of these challenges, however, pale in comparison to what many would consider the greatest of them all: getting attacked by the wildlife. But not by the obvious candidates such as tigers or snakes – although Thomas has on many occasions been within inches of some of the world's most poisonous snakes, spiders and reptiles, knowing full well that, if attacked, he would almost certainly be dead before any help could be found. 'I have never been bitten or stung by anything poisonous,' confesses Thomas. 'I just approach very carefully and learn to read the animal's body language.'

No, the main aggressors are some of the rainforest's smallest creatures: mosquitoes, of course, which in many parts of the world carry the risk of malaria, but also blood-sucking leeches and tiny mites called chiggers.

'Because a lot of my work is close to the ground I sometimes have to lie on the forest floor to get my shots,' he explains. 'The chiggers get through your clothes and burrow under the surface of your skin. You can see them walking around under the surface. They're hard to get out too, and I had a very bad allergic reaction to them. There's a fly larvae that does that too, and you can't get them out without pulling your skin off with them. By comparison with those, the leeches aren't too bad, though you do get a lot of blood when you pull them off.'

Above: At up to 106cm wide, the Rafflesia is the world's largest flower. This was shot in Borneo

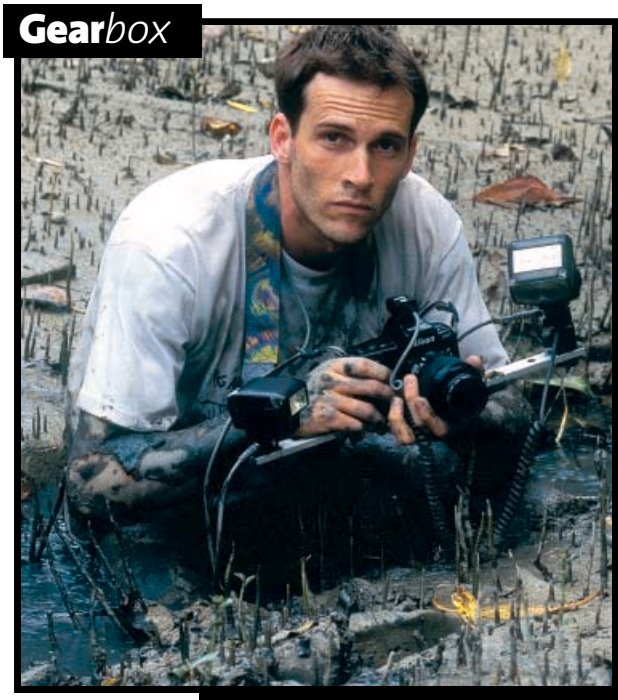
Top: The perfectly camouflaged Orchid Mantis waits motionless in an Orchid flower for its prey

Favourite *places*

Thomas visited around 20 countries in the making of this book. These are some of his favourite places:

1. **NEW ZEALAND:** 'Not great for animals, but its temperate rainforests provide spectacular landscapes.'
2. **PERU:** 'Because it has the Andes it offers three types of rainforest – cloud, mountain and lowland forest. This huge variety makes it very interesting.'
3. **COLUMBIA AND ECUADOR:** 'These two neighbouring countries have so many species of birds and butterflies.'
4. **COSTA RICA:** 'A high density of wildlife, so you get to see lots of animals.'
5. **MADAGASCAR:** 'For its lemurs and chameleons.'
6. **BORNEO:** 'For the amazing orang-utan.'

Gearbox



Thomas used a variety of Nikon 35mm cameras loaded with Fuji Velvia film, and lenses ranging from a 17-35mm up to a 500mm, which he used for shooting birds.

His most frequently used lens is his 200mm Micro-Nikkor macro lens. Although Thomas favours natural light he does use flash sometimes. His set-up comprises a long bar extending out from below the camera in each direction, with a Nikon Speedlite at each end. Not only does this provide more even illumination but the positions of each flash can be independently adjusted. He also carries two fold-up Lastolite reflectors – one silver/gold, one translucent diffuser – to direct the existing light.

Thomas recently switched to digital, with the acquisition of a Nikon D200. 'It's a great camera for the money,' Thomas enthuses. 'I think two or three years ago film was still better quality, but I think digital has the edge now. It has some drawbacks but there are more advantages than disadvantages. You can see what you've shot straight away, and change the ISO for every shot. Before, I needed three bodies, all with different film for different conditions. With the magnification factor of the D200 I now find the 105mm macro (equivalent to 150mm on 35mm) and 200-400mm f/4 most useful.' Thomas shoots RAW and JPEG and processes them with Nikon Capture NX software. He avoids manipulation. 'I'm not comfortable changing the reality,' he says.

Above: Thomas has dedicated nearly half of his life to capturing the beauty of the world's rainforests

Below: This female orang-utan had only one arm. It was photographed at a rescue centre at Sepilok, Borneo

'Some parts of the world are too dangerous to visit without fear of being attacked and killed by guerrillas or bandits'

Thomas sees these as more of an inconvenience than an actual threat, and says that the biggest danger in working in the rainforest is the risk of getting lost. 'I usually take a local guide with me who knows the terrain, but once, when I was out walking alone, I saw an interesting shot just a few metres off the trail. After I had taken the shot I became disorientated because the dense foliage all looks the same. The only way I could find my way back was to walk out from that point at different compass bearings, snapping twigs as I went, and then returning to the start point and trying a different bearing until I located the trail. It took me several hours.'

The other big danger is people. Some parts of the world are too dangerous to visit without fear of being attacked and killed by guerrillas or bandits. These include parts of Panama and Columbia and the Congo. In Rwanda and Uganda, Thomas had to be accompanied by soldiers for protection.

Considering all the risks and challenges Thomas faced, it's amazing he didn't give up on the whole enterprise somewhere along the way, but one look through his book makes it obvious why he persisted. *Rainforest* is a wonderful tribute to these amazing but fast-vanishing areas, which is why it has been endorsed by the Rainforest Foundation, a charity founded by Sting, to support projects designed to save the rainforests and help the indigenous peoples living in them. With their help our grandchildren will, we hope, one day have the opportunity to get attacked by chiggers themselves. **WDC**

Above: A Gunther's banded treefrog, shot in Tambopata Reserve, Peru

Right: A painted bronzeback snake at Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary, Borneo. This is one of Thomas's favourite photographs

Far Right: A crested black macaque poses for Thomas at Tangkoko Nature Reserve, Sulawesi, Indonesia

READER OFFER

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Nikon

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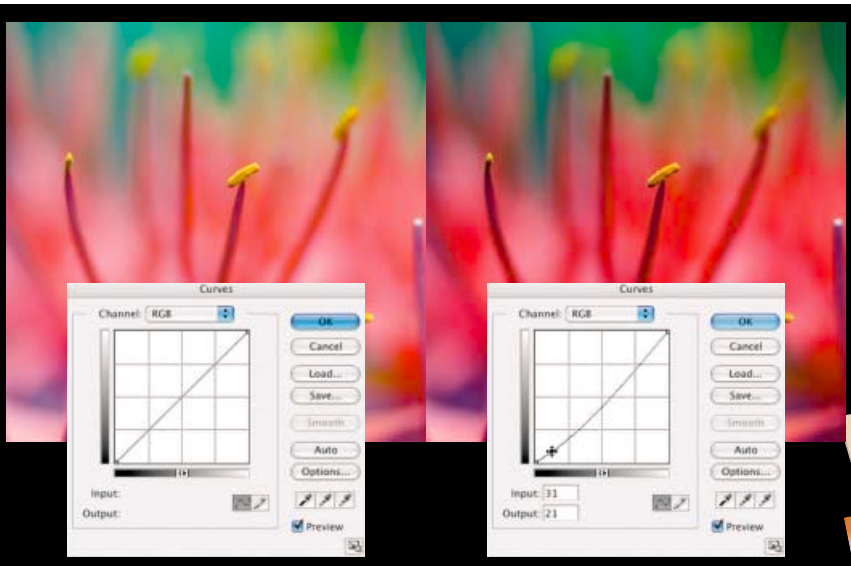

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WDC DPS - December issue

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100 GIFTS For Christmas

If you've a hankering for photo kit as Christmas looms, here's our choice of affordable must-haves with which to supplement your stocking. The canny, of course, will circle their favourites with a fat marker pen and leave *What Digital Camera* open where friends and relatives can see it. What better way to guarantee the right gifts come Christmas Day?

In this round-up, we've quoted the kind of prices that you'll see when buying online, an activity that reveals some very good deals. The website addresses will point you towards UK distributors or online shops. So, with accessory ideas for every budget, dip in, take your pick and rest assured that you won't be ripping the wrapping off bath salts and hankies again this year. »

SanDisk 12-in-1 USB 2.0 card reader

£17.99
www.sandisk.com
If you've a digital camera, a smart mobile phone, some kind of flash-based MP3 player and more, you'll likely have a bunch of different memory cards to juggle. Transfer data without hassle using a multi-format card reader such as this one.

Manfrotto 200PL14 quick-release plate £11.99 www.daymen.co.uk

Continual screwing and unscrewing of the camera to and from a tripod is time consuming and can cause thread damage. Manfrotto owners, however, can use a quick-release plate as a flip-off solution.

Gepe Card Safe

£6.99
www.johnsons-photopia.co.uk
Keep delicate flash memory cards safe from physical knocks, weather and grime. The insert material even protects against electrostatic shock.

Gifts for Under £25

Gifts at a snip that'll help you take more than a snap

Energizer car charger

£19.99 www.energizer.co.uk
If your camera takes AA cells, keep them juiced while on the road with this battery charger. It plugs into the cigarette lighter so you can compromise the car's battery, not your shoot.

Hoya filters

From £13 www.intro2020.co.uk
These camera add-ons alter the way your lens sees the scene to increase the impact and appearance of eventual black, grey and white tones. Popular filters include yellow (K2), orange (G) and red (25A).

Paper

PERMAJET IMAGELIFE ALPHA 76p per A4 sheet/£1.52 per A3

www.permajet.com
Relatives will want some hard copies of festive activities. The best-value paper in our recent group test, this creamy, 310gsm warm base smooth matte paper offers impressive quality at a competitive price.

OLMEC HEAVYWEIGHT GLOSS 40p per A4 sheet/£19.99 per 50-pack www.ici-imagedata.com

A cool, white, high-gloss paper with an optimised coating for dye-based inks. Giving this pack an advantage, the ICI ImageData website offers free downloadable ICC profiles for Olmec papers, allowing impressive results using simple printer driver settings. It stole top honours in our round-up of A4 inkjet photo papers from third-party (that is, non-manufacturer's own) brands.

HAHNEMUHLE PHOTO RAG 96p per A4 sheet/£1.90 per A3 www.hahnemuhle.com

Both more expensive and more difficult to pronounce than Permajet's photo paper, we feel the extra effort and outlay is very much worth it for this heavier-than-average (308gsm) moderately warm, smooth matte, fine art paper. It performed very well in our group tests this year, winning by a whisker.

Delkin DC5D-D pop-up shade

£24.99
www.delkin.com

If camera bellows don't appeal, try a pop-up solution. The shade detaches when not needed and the whole assembly comes away cleanly thanks to non-residue adhesive.

Lowepro Transporter camera strap

£16 **www.daymen.co.uk**

Here are several reasons to swap the strap that came with your DSLR. A pair of buckles allows the strap to be released quickly from the camera body, making it easier to place the camera on a tripod without entanglement. The comfortable strap also has a detachable memory card wallet, and provides more padding for the neck and shoulder than the standard strap that came bundled with your camera.

Tamrac Adventure Messenger 1 bag £17 www.intro2020.co.uk

A satchel-type carry device able to transport a DSLR body, spare lens, plus flashgun. The main section has internal dividers, while the front zip-up pocket is ideal for memory cards. There's even a pocket on the side for your camera phone. This is an ideal bag for the city or lightweight traveller, and it doesn't even look like a camera bag.

Lowepro PixelPak V2 card case

£7.95
www.lowepro.com

Made from ABS plastic, this features a push-button lock and is a mix of plastic and aluminium. It holds up to four CF, Sony MS and MS Duo cards, or a PCMIA adaptor if one of the rubber inserts is removed. For memory cards in transit, this device is a must.

Fuji camera support cushion

£9.99
www.fuji.co.uk

If you need to place a camera on an uneven surface, try a cushion. Ideal for compacts, this one from Fujifilm has a resin-bead filling that holds the camera steady.

Books

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHER'S HANDBOOK

Published by DK £25

Professional-hat-wearer-turned-TV-presenter Tom Ang's 400-page tome is the daddy of digital 'how to' books, covering everything from equipment and techniques to special effects. References to equipment and processes have been updated in this edition, to reflect recent advances.

A GUIDE TO DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY DVD

Published by Photo-i £14.95

Written and presented by WDC contributor Vincent Oliver, this DVD guides the viewer through the basics of digital photography before tackling common subjects – such as landscapes and portraits – in turn. The presentation is impressive with quality pictures, clear explanations and decent graphics.

ON THE ROAD WITH YOUR DIGITAL CAMERA

Published by Ilex £16.95

Split into four easy-to-read sections, starting with basic advice on locations and what kit to use, this is perfect for aspiring (digital) travel photographers.

LEE FROST'S SIMPLE ART OF BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY

Published by David and Charles £14.99

This 140-page guide by expert photographer Lee Frost is dedicated entirely to B&W. Though written from a film-capture perspective, the advice on exposure, depth of field and composition is universal and will appeal to anyone with a passion for mono.

ART PHOTOGRAPHY NOW

Published by Thames and Hudson £19.95

An artsy tome collecting together 80 contemporary photographers, including Sam Taylor Wood, Wolfgang Tillmans and Sophie Calle and spanning the themes of portraits, landscapes, and narrative. Edited by Susan Bright, it's a feast for the eyes as well as a good source of inspiration.

100 WAYS TO TAKE BETTER PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHS

Published by David & Charles £16.95

Written by photography journalist Dan Lezano in conjunction with photographer Bjorn Thomassen, this book provides inspiration in spades. Each page is devoted to a specific technique with accessible advice and attractive images, collecting together an impressive array of ideas on a familiar theme.

Personalised Photo Gifts

Photobox
From £1.50 www.photobox.co.uk
Premier UK site PhotoBox offers a comprehensive range of presents, from **sticker sheets** with which to personalise your mobile (at £1.50), through **greetings cards, mugs, mouse mats, jigsaws, laser-etched paperweights, postcards** and **cushions**, up to **large-format canvasses** (from £59.99).

Also of interest to the photo enthusiast is Photobox's range of bespoke **photo books** – one of many hardback alternatives to the traditional photograph album. From 20 to 50 images and captions are printed onto double-sided silk-coated paper, with an upload to delivery turnaround of just three days. Prices start at £19.99 plus P&P.

Cherish
www.cherishworld.co.uk
Another site offering bound photo books printed on 170gsm paper – as well as **calendars, greeting cards, posters** and even US College-style **yearbooks** (at £39.95). Soft-cover **photo books** start at £29.99, with hardback 30-page versions for £10 more.

Kodak
www.kodakgallery.co.uk
Order your **Christmas cards, calendars, puzzles, mouse pads** or **tote bag** online, along with the more prosaic **coffee mug** adorned with an image of your loved one. You can also upload images direct from your camera phone.

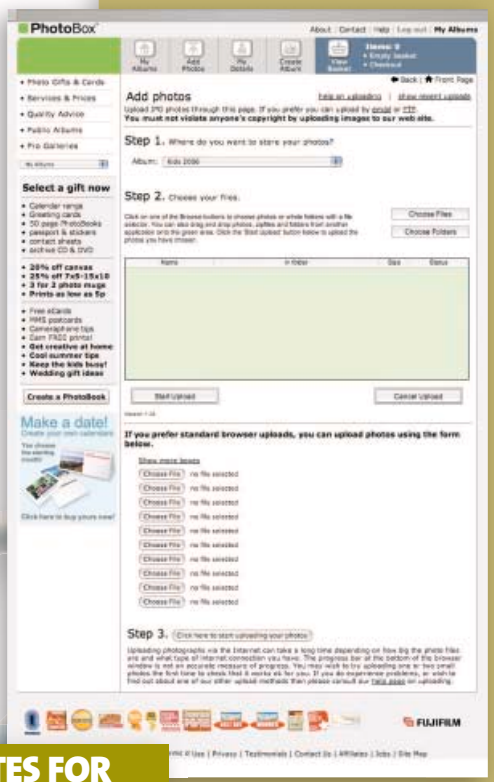
Bags of Love
www.bagsoflove.co.uk
More unusual photo gifts – including **luxury cushions** and **accessory bags**. The bags in question range from £29 to £158, while the cushions cost £39. Perfect for the grandparents perhaps, depending on how deep your love (and pocket) is.

Make An

Most of the major photo-sharing websites offer an extensive range of gifts bearing your photos, which can be ordered on their website and are delivered in days to your door.

Before you can order, you first have to open an account with them, then upload your pictures to their website. The uploading process may sound complicated, but most of the main providers have a simple drag-and-drop interface. As an example, you can see below how I uploaded some photos to Photobox. The entire process took minutes.

I already have several albums on Photobox but wanted to create a new one for my photobook photos. In order to create a new album, simply click the 'Create Album' button at the top. To upload photos to a new or existing album, click on 'Add Photos'.



UPLOAD PHOTOS
On the left is the upload page. First (Step 1) select which album you wish to upload to. Then you have a choice of two ways to upload – singly or in a batch. I find that the easiest method is to simply drag your images from your desktop or My Pictures folder onto the green square. The images then appear as a list. Alternatively you can choose to upload individually by clicking the Choose File buttons and selecting your images one by one via your PC's own browser. (There are links for other methods too, such as emailing individual images or using ftp.)

Here you can see all my files listed in the green box. All I need to do now is press 'Start Upload' and the images upload from top to bottom. The Status column on the right indicates the progress of each file – either 'Ready to Upload', the percentage of the file that's been uploaded, or 'Uploaded'. When it's finished you'll see all the pictures in your album.

MAKING A PHOTOBOOK
Photobooks are probably the most classy and impressive way to display your photos and give them as gifts. Making them is easy. Here's how I made one at Photobox in just a few minutes, using the images I've just uploaded. Read on...

TOP SITES FOR PHOTO GIFTS
www.photobox.co.uk
www.kodakgallery.co.uk
www.snapfish.co.uk
www.jessops.co.uk
www.cherishworld.co.uk

Snapfish

www.snapfish.co.uk

American online print site Snapfish now has a UK site, offering an assortment of photo gifts such as **calendars, baby bibs, mugs, mouse mats, jigsaws** and photo cards for Christmas. Snapfish also offers its services via Jessops.

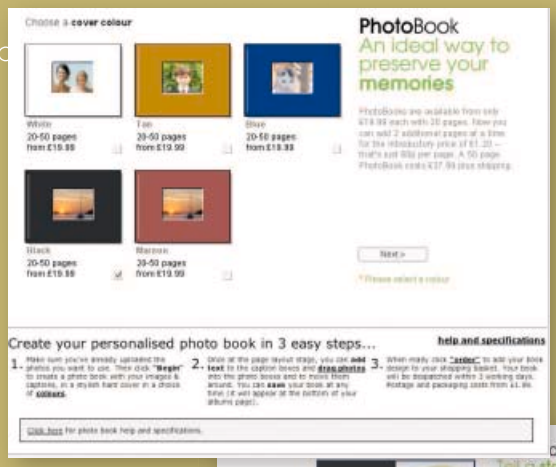
Online Photo Book

STEP 1

Click the 'Make Photobook' link on the home page, or the photobook ad. You'll see a page which gives you the opportunity to elect which album you want the pictures to come from. (Don't worry, you're not tied to this.)

STEP 2

Choose the colour you'd like for the cover, from the five available. I went for classic black.


Choose a cover colour
PhotoBook
An ideal way to preserve your memories
Create your personalised photo book in 3 easy steps...
help and specifications

STEP 3

Choose the style of the pages. Photobox offers three: Simply (the least fussy); Formal (ideal for weddings etc); and Kids. I went for the latter, as my album will be a collection of pictures of my children as a gift for granny.

STEP 4

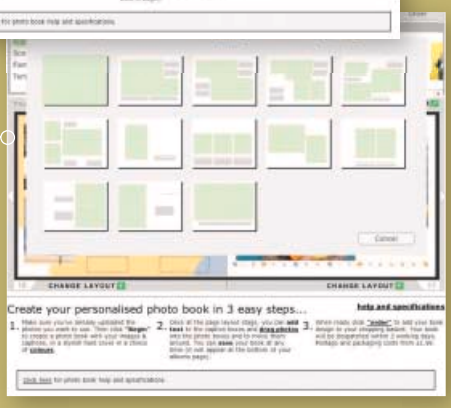
Give the album a name and subtitle. Here you can choose to start the album with no pictures, and drag the ones you want onto the page manually, or select an an album from which to populate the book automatically. I chose the manual method as I like the control, but even if you choose an auto fill you can still rearrange and delete any images at the next stage.

STEP 5

The fun bit – arrange your pictures. The various template pages offer everything from a single full-bleed image to combinations of two, three or four images in various orientations. They all feature various decorative artwork in keeping with the kids theme. You can change these by clicking the Change Layout link at the bottom of the page.

STEP 6

When you've finished, simply click the Save button, proceed to the checkout, complete the purchase and wait for the postman to deliver your book. In the case of Photobox it takes about three days.



Samsung A503 £85

The compact A503 offers 5MPs, a generous 2-in LCD screen and 11 exposure modes, though no optical zoom. The screen quality is pretty poor, making it hard to see outdoors (there's no viewfinder). The macro ring around the lens is a tempting target for curious fingers, causing blurred pics. Overall picture quality is unremarkable. The red finish made it the kids' favourite but if we'd had the silver version it would have been a different story. **Score: 78%**

Nikon Coolpix L3 £99

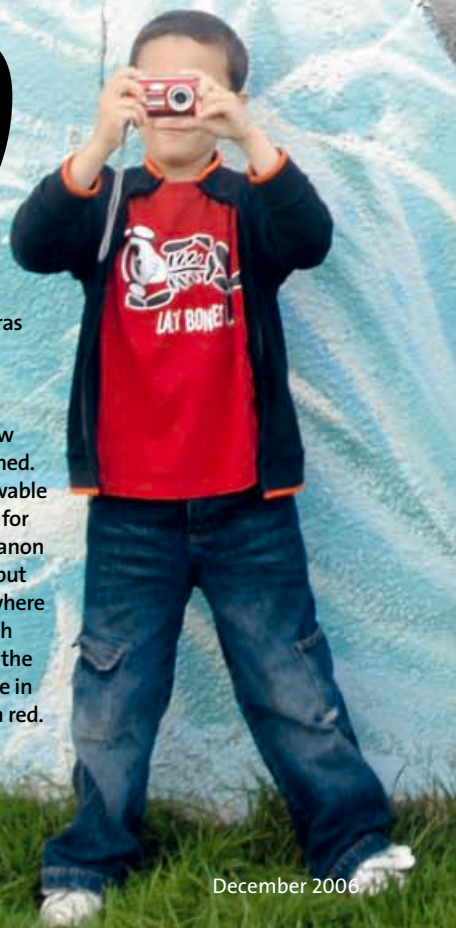
Similar in shape to the Olympus but slightly smaller, the L3 boasts a 5MP sensor, 3x optical zoom and 2-in LCD. Its unique feature (in this company) is its face priority AF, in which the camera can recognise (and focus on) a face in the scene. The L3 is mid-table in looks, handling and screen clarity. But the images are a let-down. Dark and over-saturated, when magnified they're the softest of the bunch and over-processed. **Score: 78%**

Canon Powershot A430 £95

Another camera which owed its popularity to its colour, the A430 offers 4MPs, 4x optical zoom, 1.8-in LCD, eight scene modes plus extras such as panoramic stitching. It's also one of only two cameras with an optical viewfinder. It's a shame about the poor LCD screen, the confusing button layout on the back and the fact it's rather too fat to fit easily in a pocket. Picture quality was fairly good, placing it just behind the Olympus and Fuji. **Score: 81%**

Cameras For Under £100

Nigel Atherton tests six models under £100 – with a bit of help from a few young friends



We seldom review sub-£100 cameras because historically they haven't been very good. When we tested a selection in 2003, the highest spec model had just 2MPs, a 1-in LCD and no zoom. But times change and you can now get 6MPs, a 4x zoom, 2.5-in LCD and, dare I say it, even a bit of style.

To help me with this test I've roped in my kids and their friends to help. Not because these cameras are designed for children – all but one are aimed at adults on a budget – but we think they make great presents for kids and offer an opportunity to get them interested in a creative, rewarding and inexpensive hobby.

All the cameras tested here offer between 4MPs and 6MPs, an LCD screen of at least 1.8-in, and run on AA batteries. All but one has a zoom, and most important, all can be bought for under £100, if you shop around.

THE KIDS' VIEW

If you want to sell cameras to kids, make the cameras red, I've discovered. The Samsung A503 was the runaway choice, with the Canon a close second. The Nikon and Olympus were liked for their slim profiles, while the chunkier Kodak and Fuji drew few compliments. But after using them, opinions softened. Many of the LCD screens proved completely unviewable on our bright, sunny test day, making it impossible for them to see what they were photographing. The Canon and Fuji are the only two with optical viewfinders but these also have the worst screens, so you can see where the compromises have been made. The camera with the best screen, and therefore the easiest to use, is the Olympus. But despite this, style won over substance in the final assessment. If only the Olympus had been red.

Main image: Nigel Atherton

Olympus FE-170 £95

By far the best specified camera here. Six (count 'em!) megapixels, 3x zoom, a big 2.5-in screen, 14 exposure modes plus an 'Image Stabilisation' anti-shake mode (actually just a high ISO/high shutter speed combo, but still useful). The kids liked its slim profile and it has a great on-board help guide too. The LCD screen was easily the best and easiest to see, and image quality was the best too, putting the FE-170 head and shoulders above the rest. **Score: 85%**

Fisher-Price Kid Tough £60

The Kid Tough is aimed specifically at young children – hence the chunky dual-hand grips, binocular-style finder and minimal functionality. Sadly the image quality is so poor (even allowing for its VGA sensor) that a packet of wax crayons and a sheet of paper could give it a run for its money. A novelty toy for pre-schoolers only. **Score: 35%**

Fuji Finepix A400 £99

'Boring' and 'ugly' were the two most popular adjectives for the A400. The spec (4MPs, 3x zoom, 1.8-in LCD) is fine but the scarcity of buttons makes navigation confusing. Its LCD is poor, though it does have a viewfinder. But for image quality it's only narrowly beaten by the Olympus. Such a seemingly intangible benefit failed to impress our young testers however, who gave it a big thumbs down. **Score: 82%**

Kodak C433 £90

I'd say this beats the Fuji to the Ugliest Camera award, but this 4MP, 3x zoom model has its good points. It handles OK and the interface is clear and simple. The dial on the top makes it quick to access the various modes, and the 1.8-in LCD is passable. Image quality falls mid-table. While not the worst camera here, it doesn't excel in any area, giving little reason to choose it. **Score: 79%**

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BRAND NEW

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10.0 MP

Canon PowerShot A640 Digital Camera

£235.58 inc vat (£200.50 ex vat)

quicklinx 48LODC

customer rating ★★★★★

- 6.3 Megapixel
- 3x optical zoom
- 2.5" LCD screen

6.3 MP

Fuji Finepix F20 Digital Camera

£156.34 inc vat (£133.06 ex vat)

quicklinx 48XDDC

- 6.0 Megapixel
- 3X Optical Zoom
- Bright 2.4" LCD screen

6.0 MP

Sony Cyber-Shot S500

£129.47 inc vat (£110.19 ex vat)

quicklinx 496MDC

7.1 MP

- 7.1 Megapixel
- 5x optical zoom
- KODAK RETINA Dual Lens Technology

Kodak EasyShare V705 – Black

£205.48 inc vat (£174.88 ex vat)

quicklinx 48RPDC

- 7.1 Megapixel
- 3x optical zoom

7.1 MP

Olympus Mju 700 Silver Digital Camera

£156.88 inc vat (£133.52 ex vat)

quicklinx 43YMDC

customer rating ★★★★★

7.0 MP

- The 7 megapixel PENTAX Optio S7 is loaded with advanced features - all in a slim and stylish body.
- 3x optical zoom
- 2.5-inch LCD

Pentax Optio S7

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quicklinx 48WNDC

where people in the know go

Prices exclude delivery and are subject to change without notice. E&OE. Check www.dabs.com for latest prices.

dabs.com

Crumpler Stunner

£55 www.intro2020.co.uk

Funky-looking camera bag from the team Down Under. This bright red bag doesn't resemble a standard camera bag but is – like fellow Crumpler products – heavily padded, and can hold a camera, lens and flash in the main compartment. The front pocket features net internal pockets for leads, batteries and media. It looks good and, more important, it feels good too.

Linksys WRT54GL wireless access point router

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Jobo SD to CF adaptor

£29.99 www.intro2020.co.uk

If you've stepped up from a compact that uses SD cards to a DSLR that takes CompactFlash, you can still use the old cards by plugging them into this inexpensive adaptor.

Spyder Express

£68 **www.colourconfidence.com**

Colour management is seen as a dark art beloved of commercial photographers. However, if you're interested in your prints resembling exactly what you see on your monitor – and that monitor displaying a proper representation in the first place – you need one of these. For CRT monitors, three suction cups hold it in place. Simple to set up and quick to use.

Sony DPP-FP55 printer

£100 **www.sony.co.uk**

The electronics giant weighs in with its own portable 6 x 4in dye-sub printer that boasts PictBridge connectivity (via USB) plus card slots for Memory Stick and Secure Digital. Its build is attractive and sturdy, with a small footprint and nice pearl finish, while a 2in LCD affords access to image preview and menu screens. Image-editing features include colour options and redeye reduction, plus a creative print option so you can make personalised calendars.

Fuji xD Picture Card M-type 2GB

£49.99 **www.fuji.co.uk**

Owners of Fuji and Olympus cameras can now enjoy yet more xD Picture card capacity with the recently released 2GB model.

Epson Perfection V100 and V350 Photo scanners

£69.99 & £99.99

www.epson.co.uk

Most photo enthusiasts still have boxes full of transparencies or negatives lurking under the bed. Give your banished shots a fresh digital lease of life with these two natty scanners from the reliable Epson stable, incorporating its Matrix CCD technology in a slim design. The V100 has a top resolution of 3200 x 9600 dpi; the V350 ups this to 4800 x 9600 dpi and can scan a row of six 35mm frames in one go.

Lexar 32-bit CardBus adaptor

£29.99 **www.lexar.com**

Laptop owners whose machines have PC slots can get ahead in the speed stakes when uploading shots from CF cards. This 32-bit adaptor slings images onto the hard drive much more quickly than a USB 2.0 card reader.

Canon LIDE-25 scanner

£49.99 **www.canon.co.uk**

This slender flatbed scanner can convert an archive of photo prints to digital very accurately thanks to 1200 x 2400dpi resolution and 48-bit colour depth.

Filters

SIGMA DG CIRCULAR POLARISER

From £50

www.sigma-imaging-uk.com

With photographers realising that some of the old-style on-camera filter effects can't adequately be reproduced in Photoshop, the polariser is making a comeback. The DG range is designed for DSLRs, and features a special multi-layer coating on the glass to reduce flare and ghosting. Excellent quality at a competitive price.

SIGMA CIRCULAR POLARISING FILTER

From £49.99

www.sigma-imaging-uk.com

You can't beat a polarising filter for saturating the blue of the sky without affecting colour balance, and banishing reflections. Sigma makes circular polarisers for all standard thread sizes.

Tripods and monopods

MANFROTTO 322RC2 HORIZONTAL HEAD

£89.99 www.daymen.co.uk

Positioning the camera atop the tripod with one hand is just a breeze with this grip. The built-in spirit level and quick-release plate make it a really versatile addition to your kitbag.

GIOTTO 8970 CARBON FIBRE MONOPOD

£87 www.johnsons-photopia.net

Give your photography added support with this carbon-fibre monopod with a spring-loaded foot at the base that adds instant stability when you pull it down and stand on it. The four-section leg extends up to 75in but collapses down to a more portable 24.7in. Supplied with a tool kit, a hex key, plus a handy carry bag.

JOBY GORILLAPOD SLR

£40 www.intro2020.co.uk

Lightweight at 165g, this enlarged version of the original mini tripod (also available at £19.99) has the same flexible ball and socket legs, allowing the unit to be wrapped around posts, tree branches or simply placed on a tabletop. With a quick-release plate it's tough enough to be able to hold up to 1.1kg of camera and lens securely. Ideal for placing your camera in hitherto inaccessible places, it's sure to prove a boon for DSLR users.

MANFROTTO 680 MONOPOD

£39.99 www.daymen.co.uk

Tripods can be a faff to deploy, so if you're in a hurry, use this rugged monopod. It sets up in a couple of seconds to steady the camera when you've got to be quick.

MANFROTTO 804RC2 PAN TILT HEAD

£60 www.manfrotto.co.uk

A three-way tripod head sculpted in lightweight technical polymer, incorporating a spirit level and a fixed counterbalance spring on the tilt motion to support loads up to 4kg. Durable enough to withstand everyday wear and tear.

Lowepro CompuDayPack

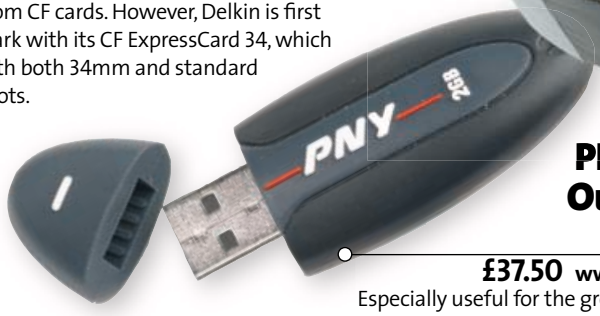
£80 www.lowepro.com

An all-round bag suitable for both photo kit and computer, it's usefully designed to carry both DSLR and laptop. Divided into three sections, the bag is comfortable and well-made, while a front pocket will hold the ubiquitous iPod (there's even a handy headphone hole). The bottom of the bag features six padded compartments for your photo kit, or alternatively the whole section can be removed if you need more space.

Delkin ExpressCard 34 CF adaptor

£32 www.delkin.com

The MacBook Pro is a fine laptop, but its PC card slot is a little small at 34mm, which could be a problem for those looking to transfer files to and from CF cards. However, Delkin is first to the mark with its CF ExpressCard 34, which works with both 34mm and standard 54mm slots.



PNY Attache Outdoor USB flash drive

£37.50 www.pny-europe.com

Especially useful for the growing army of DSLR owners, this 2GB flash drive represents an unobtrusive, inexpensive and very useful method of storing and transferring images between one device and another (say Mac to PC, desktop to laptop). Unlike most though, this is a model for the great outdoors, with a tough rubberised casing, plus USB 2.0 for swift download.

Energizer battery charger

£29.99

www.energizer.co.uk

Fits comfortably in the hand, is completely wireless and charges four cells in around seven hours. It could only be Energizer's latest model. It may not be the smallest model on the market but it offers compatibility with both AA and AAA cells, meaning it's a winner in our book.

XS Drive MP3

From £65

www.cardmedia.co.uk

One of the smallest portable storage drives yet, this 19mm-thick iPod-resembling device comes in a choice of three capacities: 20, 30 and 40GB. Transferring a 1GB card stacked full of images takes around eight minutes, but it offers download to a PC via high-speed USB 2.0. There's no image viewing option, though the blue front LCD, menu and operation is effective and the price won't scare those on a budget.

Sagem Photo Easy 110

£69.99 www.sagem.com

The French mobile phone manufacturer has come up with this attractive and low-cost home printing device with clamshell design. Connectivity is via infrared, with Bluetooth and Wi-Fi modules available as optional extras, while direct printing from your camera is also offered via USB 2.0. There's also a nine-in-one card reader slot. You'll get the best results with the 'crystal image' function.

Magix Goya Easy Media software

£29.99

www.magix.com

Promising a complete solution, this budget easy-to-use software includes the ability to edit video and music files alongside stills. Using a variety of wizard-based options, slideshows can be created, music catalogued and CDs and DVDs burnt; a perfect tool for sharing the fruit of your digital labour with friends and family.

Premierlight PL-7

£30 www.premierlight.co.uk

Handy torch that not only illuminates frosty winter mornings, but also sends SOS signals with a claimed two-mile visibility if you find yourself in a spot of bother. If you're keen on nature, a red LED provides illumination without disturbing wildlife. Supplied with a belt holster, it's compact, tough, and battery life seems very long.

Sony GPS-CS1

£99 www.sonystyle.co.uk

EXIF information is all very well, but at present it doesn't tell you where a photo was taken. Sony's new GPS device, however, can log your position as each shot is taken and log the data into a map on computer. Slick.

Green Clean sensor cleaning kit

£60

www.warehouseexpress.com

The problem with changing lenses on DSLRs is that you risk the ingress of microscopic particles that stick to the camera's sensor and show up as flecks on images. While several DSLRs now feature anti-shake settings and anti-dust CCD coatings, you never know when the undesirables will strike, so why not keep this sensor-cleaning kit handy? Green Clean claims to be the most economical cleaning system on the market and features an aerosol can and mini vac.

Hoodman LCD shade

From £30

www.hoodmanusa.com

Nasty glare on the camera's LCD on bright days? Then this handy device is a must. These pop-up shades fit over the eyepieces of most SLRs. Also take a look at Delkin's range of LCD shades (www.delkin.com).

Lastolite TriFlip

£85 www.johnsons-photopia.net

If you didn't snag the freebie with our November issue, this versatile reflector with built-in handle could just be the Swiss Army Knife of such devices, dividing as it does into three pieces: one white reflector diffuser and two reversible slip-on covers. Of the latter, one has a B&W side for creating fill or shadow, with black and full gold if you turn it inside out. The other is silver and white, which reverses into a silver/gold mix when turned inside out. All fit snugly into a 14-in bag, making it ideal for keen portraitists.

LaCie Mobile Drive 80GB

£79 www.lacie.com/uk

You can never have enough hard drive space, and LaCie's mobile drive makes for stylish and capacious storage. It has USB 2.0 connectivity and works with both Mac and PC.

Portable Photo Printers

Going away for a family Christmas? **Ian Burley** rounds up six of the best portable photo printers to take along

With the breakneck pace we live at these days, you no longer have to wait to get your photos developed and printed. There are plenty of small, light photo-quality printers you can bring with you when you travel.

There are two types of portable photo printer: inkjet and dye-sub. Poor quality dye-sub printers can produce flat results; on the other hand, there is none of that inkjet graininess, and prints are splash-proof. Fade-resistance of dye-sub prints, however, has been called into question by the leading authority on the subject, Henry Wilhelm, of Wilhelm Imaging. The best inkjet printers are now a real match for lab-processed colour prints. Dye-based inkjet printers used to be plagued with fade-resistance problems, but many of these are being overcome, while fade-resistant pigmented inks are now making an impact.

More and more printers are being equipped with Bluetooth wireless connectivity – mainly for printing from camera phones – and a few can be equipped with WiFi networking. Almost all printers now support wired camera-to-printer printing via USB using PictBridge. If you prefer to print from a memory card, check to see that your card format is supported. Many printers now come with quite large colour screens so you can preview shots. Running costs are getting increasingly competitive. Epson and Lexmark, for example, can produce 6x4 prints for the paper and ink cost of 20p per print.

Sony DPP-FP55

£100 www.sony.co.uk

The Sony FP55 fits in the middle of the compact photo printer market, producing 6x4in prints either from PC (via PictBridge) or using either of two card slots – for Memory Stick and Secure Digital format cards. This isn't an obvious phone-camera printer either, with no iRDA or Bluetooth. Easy to use, it's an attractive printer with a small footprint and nice pearl finish. Print quality suffers when compared against the output from inkjets. In conclusion, a good-looking and small printer, but one that's fairly average, offering few special features and delivering slightly dull images. **Score: 82%**

Epson PictureMate 500

£100 www.epson.co.uk

For around 20p per 6x4 print, the Epson PictureMate 500 offers very good running costs. Picture quality is very good too and, as pigment inks are used, your photos will last a lifetime, though print speed is not fast. The unit itself is quite large and heavy for a portable, but its carry handle works well and there is an optional battery for convenience. Bluetooth wireless is also an available option. Well worth the small premium over the PictureMate 100, which uses dye-based inks that are less fade resistant.

If ultimate compactness and weight isn't top of your list, this is the compact photo printer to go for. **Score: 91%**

Kodak EasyShare G600 Printer Dock

£130 www.kodak.co.uk

Kodak's EasyShare G600 is the first of a new generation of Kodak Printer Docks that can accept higher-capacity, 100-sheet paper packs and cartridges. It is designed attractively and prints are of the best quality in the consumer dye-sub sector. To complement the built-in carry handle, a rechargeable battery is available as an option. There are no card slots or Bluetooth support.

Well worth considering if you have a compatible Kodak camera, but the price is high. **Score: 86%**

Lexmark P350

£100 www.lexmark.co.uk

Lexmark learned a few lessons from its first portable photo printer, the P315, making the new P350 smaller, PC/Mac compatible, adding Bluetooth and introducing Evercolor 2 pigmented inks for high fade resistance. However, there is no battery option for cordless operation. Print quality is adequate rather than excellent, but ease of use, print costs of 20p per print, and plenty of features are hard to argue with.

If cheap running costs and Bluetooth are a must, the P350 is a compelling deal. **Score: 87%**

Sagem Photo Easy 110

£70 www.sagem.com

Sagem is perhaps best known for its mobile phones and, when we originally reviewed the Photo Easy 110 in the September 2006 issue, we noted that the printer seemed to be designed with mobile phone camera users in mind. Bluetooth is supported and you can buy an optional WiFi dongle too.

Although the Photo Easy 110 is cheap to buy, and relatively cheap and quick to run, its yellowish prints and simplistic features – there is no LCD screen, for example – mark it down.

Cheap and cheerful, but with so many better printers around, this is not an obvious choice. **Score: 75%**

Canon Selphy DS810

£149 www.canon.co.uk

The DS810's proliferation of buttons can appear daunting, but it is very easy to use. Each button controls one function, including menu, back, settings, search, print and stop/reset. The usual CF/SD/MMC/MS/MSPro cards are supported, along with PictBridge and optional Bluetooth. While the tilting 2.5in LCD is a good size, the screen resolution is poor. Prints seem a little dark and skin tones a touch warm, and it struggles to represent shades of shadow detail. Price has been heavily discounted.

Versatility could be expanded with the addition of a battery for printing on the move. However, this is an easy-to-operate unit that produces decent prints. **Score: 84%**

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SIGMA

OUR WORLD

Andy Belcher: Born in the U.K. in 1948. Fascinated by nature, he moved to New Zealand in 1972, and has won 108 awards for underwater and adventure photography. He expertly covers a wide range of subjects, making the most of his creativity, professional skills, and proficiency in portrait photography.

Photo data: Sigma APO 50-150mm F2.8 EX DC HSM. 1/500 second. Exposure at f5.6.

ANDY BELCHER SHOOTS THE WORLD WITH A SIGMA LENS.

On a beach in New Zealand, quick reflexes are required.

Sigma's large-aperture F2.8 telephoto zoom lens captured this astonishing moment. Fortunately, the woman thrown from her horse quickly remounted and nonchalantly galloped away. This lens is the digital equivalent to the sports photographers` and news gatherers` favourite 70-200mm F2.8 lens, but with those vital few extra millimeters. This new classic from Sigma is astonishingly compact and lightweight yet packs a tremendous punch. The latest, cutting edge optical design effectively eliminates aberrations, cuts flare and ghosting, and achieves superior image quality throughout its entire zoom range. The HSM (Hyper Sonic Motor) provides silent, responsive autofocus whilst the full-time manual focus override can be employed at any time to capture the action. At only 76.3mm/3inches in maximum diameter, 132.6mm/5.2inches long, and weighing just 780g/27.5oz (in Nikon mount), high mobility and versatility is ensured without the need for a tripod bush. The lens accepts both the 1.4x and 2.0 x EX DG teleconverters, which are sold separately and comes complete with a matched lens hood and fitted, padded case.

*Vignetting (a darkening of the corners of the image) will occur if the lens is used with digital SLR cameras with image sensors larger than APS-C size or 35mm SLRs, and APS SLRs

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www.sigma-imaging-uk.com E-mail: sales@sigma-imaging-uk.com

Lensbaby 3G
£200
www.intro2020.co.uk
Plonk a Lensbaby 3G on the front of your camera and bend it about for some wild compositions. It can also be locked into position when you're fine-tuning the focus.

Sony DVDirect VRD-VC30 and VRD-MC3 DVD recorders
£189 OR £239
www.sony.co.uk
CD is so last century: being able to slump in an armchair while viewing a DVD slideshow in a turkey-induced stupor is not to be underestimated. These two devices can write direct to DVD without the involvement of a PC, and work with both Sony and non-Sony cameras. The VRD-MC3 model features slots for five different removable media.

Gifts for *over* £100

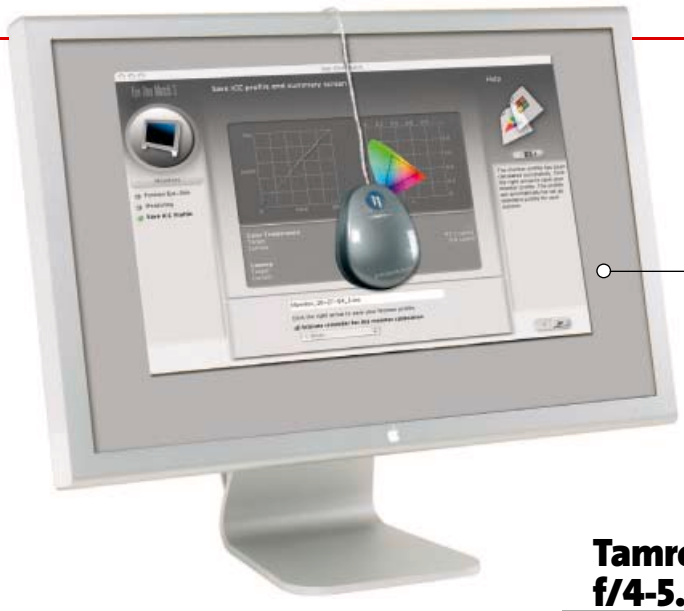
Presents for those with deeper pockets and bigger aspirations

Gretag Macbeth Digital ColorChecker SG
£229
www.gretagmacbeth.com
Use the 140 coloured cells of the Digital ColorChecker SG to profile your digital camera or scanner with considerable accuracy. Both skin tone and greyscale references feature.

Sony Micro Vault Pro 8GB
£124.98 **www.sonystyle.co.uk**
Pen drives are handy for transferring image files from home to studio or office, but they're fragile and have relatively low capacity. Not so the MicroVault Pro with 8GB capacity and a hinged USB connector that swings out of harm's way.

Epson P4000 and P5000 portable image viewers
From £350
www.epson.co.uk
These two new portable hard disks, complete with essential review screen, upgrade the previously renowned P2000 device beloved of professional snappers wanting a portable and reliable storage solution when shooting in the great outdoors.

Philips 7FF1WD 7-inch digital photo frame
£169.99 **www.consumer.philips.com**
Display your images in all their digital glory with a media player that doubles as a frame. It has 720 x 480 resolution, accepts various memory card types, can be addressed via USB and stores more than 50 photos.



Gretag Macbeth Eye-One Display 2 £179

www.gretagmacbeth.com

Take a step up into professional colour management with a monitor calibrator. Once profiled, the devices used in your workflow will produce consistent colour from screen to print. For Mac and PC.

Memory Cards

PRETEC SD HC 8GB MEMORY CARD

£159.99 www.jactron.co.uk

Owners of cameras that take SD memory cards can now enjoy a whopping 8GB of capacity. This Pretec device conforms to the SD 2.0 standard, which makes for a theoretical maximum capacity of 2 Terabytes. Now that's large by anyone's standards.

SANDISK EXTREME IV 8GB CF CARD

£399 www.sandisk.com

If you've a need for extreme speed, SanDisk's new Extreme IV CompactFlash range can keep up. Claimed to be the fastest card in the world, the company quotes impressive minimum read/write speeds of 40Mbps.

SANDISK EXTREME III 16GB CF CARD

£560 www.sandisk.com

Those seeking the best image quality shoot in RAW, but it does mean large file sizes, so card capacity can be a problem. But not with this new CF monster from SanDisk. It's fast, too, with quoted read/write speeds of 20MB/sec.

Velbon Ultra Lux iF and SF

From £105 www.intro2020.co.uk

Available with ball-and-socket or pan-and-tilt heads, these Velbon tripods are sturdy, lightweight and a cinch to deploy thanks to a twist-lock leg system.

Tamron 55-200mm f/4-5.6 Di II LD

£130 www.intro2020.co.uk

So you've stumped up for a budget DSLR, and now want an affordable 'catch all' lens. How about this zoom equating to 80-300mm on a 35mm camera, made for smaller (APS-sized, not full frame) sensors and boasting macro ability? It delivers punchy images for Canon, Nikon, Konica Minolta and Sony mounts.

Canon CP200 card printer

£135 www.canon.co.uk

Canon does a range of printers able to output 6 x 4-inch photo-quality prints. This inexpensive model for 300dpi produces glossies in a trice.

Samsung SyncMaster 710N LCD monitor

£149.99 www.samsung.com/uk

Spend even a little time working with photo-editing software and you'll soon realise that one monitor is not enough. Spread your palettes onto a second with this cost-effective 17-inch offering. Requires dual-head graphics card.

Apple Video iPod 80GB and camera connector

£259 & £19 www.apple.com/uk

Apple caught criticism with the launch of the iPod Photo because there's no flash memory card slot. However, the company now sells a camera connector by which you can plug a digital camera into an iPod and use it as a data wallet and media viewer.

Apple Aperture 1.5

£219 **www.apple.com/uk**

The newest, upgraded version of the Photoshop for Mac fans is aimed at photographers seeking an all-in-one post-production tool. Showing its pro credentials, Aperture features RAW import for most cameras along with cataloguing, publishing and archiving facilities.

Jessops 300 AFD flashgun

£99.99 **www.jessops.co.uk**

Suited to both digital and film cameras, this flash unit offers support for Canon, Nikon and Pentax models. Featuring a bounce and zoom head, it boasts four manual flash zoom positions: 28mm, 35mm, 50mm and 85mm. The flash guide number is 30m at ISO100 when in the 50mm position.

Zigview Original LCD Digital Finder

£109.99 **www.zigview.co.uk**

Shoot at the right angle with this electronic eyepiece extender. Zigview's LCD Digital Finder transfers whatever is coming through the viewfinder to a 1.9-inch colour display and attaches to most DSLRs via various eyepiece adaptors.

Ray D8 tungsten studio light

£230 **www.johnsons-photopia.co.uk**

Ever dreamt of turning the spare room into a home studio? Now's your chance. The tungsten over flash gives continuous light, allowing you to see precisely where the light and shadows are. This well-made kit from Lasolite comes with two lights and reflectors, brollies and stands.

Lowepro Photo Trekker AW II

£189.99

www.lowepro.com

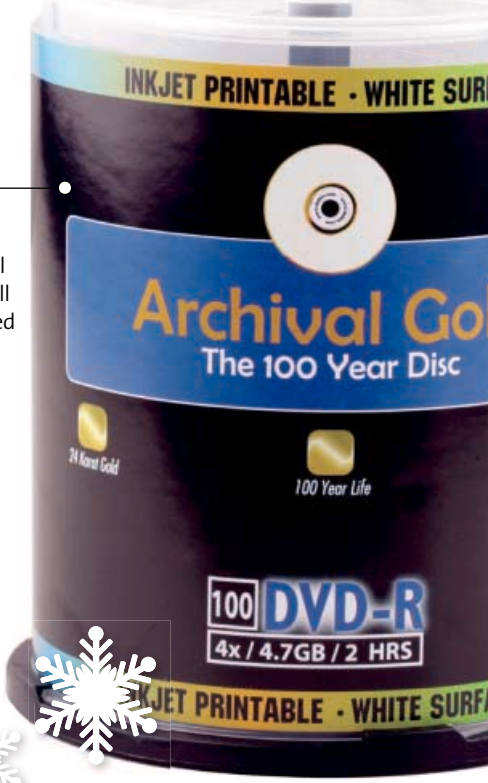
Keep photo kit safe and portable with this Lowepro backpack that's designed to withstand the rigours of the outdoors. AW stands for 'all weather' and it has rubber grips for confident handling even in stormy conditions.

VisibleDust Econo 1.6x Sensor Brush Bundle

£199.99

www.warehouseexpress.com

OK, so the price tag indicates this is a product for enthusiasts, yet many may conclude it's a small price to pay for protecting the integrity of your DSLR's sensor. The kit – suitable for use with Canon, Konica Minolta, Fuji, Nikon, Olympus, Pentax and Sigma cameras – contains swabs, touch-up brush and hurricane blower among other goodies.



Delkin ArchivalGold DVD 100

£199.99 (with Scratch Armor)

www.delkin.com

It makes no sense to archive images to optical media unless you're assured that the disck will last a good, long time. Delkin's disks are quoted to be good for 100 years and, at £2 a shot, are pretty good value.

Wacom Intuos3 A6 Wide

£186.99

www.wacom-europe.com/uk

With so many digital cameras capable of shooting at 16:9, it's logical to acquire a graphics tablet of the same aspect ratio. The active area is 15.8 x 9.8cm – ideal for working up 6 x 4ins, 8 x 6ins and so forth.

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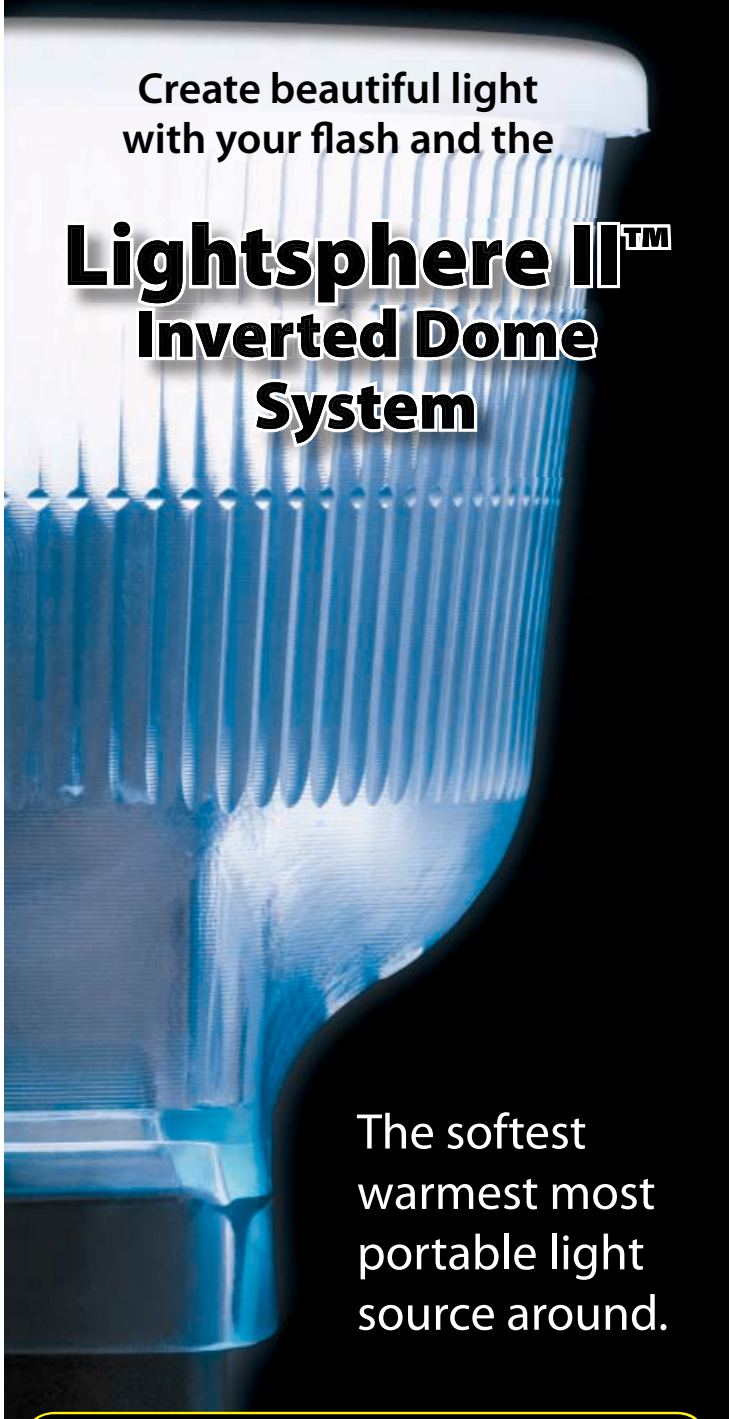

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Waterproof Cameras & Digital Camera Housings

Just how good are waterproof cameras and digital camera housings? **Joël Lacey** went to the Blue Reef Aquarium in Portsmouth to find out

Waterproof cameras come in two basic forms: the all-in-one and the separate camera and housing. The all-in-ones, represented in this test by the Pentax Optio W20, Olympus 720SW and the Ricoh 500G, are waterproof in themselves (though not to any great depth). The cameras with housings are bespoke outer protective suits allowing depths of – in the case of the Canon, Fujifilm and Sealife models on test here – 40m, 40m and 60m respectively.

We wanted to find out how easy these cameras were to use underwater, and what quality of pictures they produced.

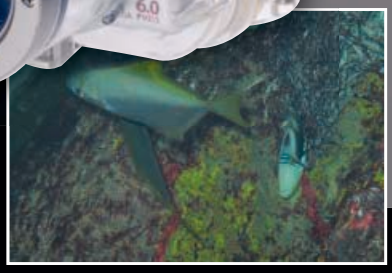
HOW WE TESTED

The six models were set to their proper settings for underwater shooting (apart from the Ricoh, which is rather a camera that is waterproof than an underwater camera, and consequently doesn't have a dedicated underwater shooting mode). Our intrepid wet-suited tester then took pictures with each of the cameras at a depth of 1m for those not rated any deeper; and as deep as her buoyant wetsuit would allow her to dive, for the three deep-dive-rated housings. Shots were taken with and without flash to gauge the effectiveness of the exposure systems and the power and clarity of the flash.

Canon Powershot A540 and WP-DC2 Housing

£219/£149, total £368

The Powershot A540 performed very well inside its housing. Its images were consistently bright and the focusing worked well. Shutter speed selection was good, with there being only a little subject and camera movement to affect the sharpness of the images. Noise was relatively well controlled. All in all, the 4x zooming 6MP model did well. The only real demerit was the ease with which it was possible to confuse the on/off/play switch for the zooming switch. The inscribed button details on the clear plastic casing were not easy to see through goggles, but the menu system was simple enough so it was relatively easy to use all round. **Score: 85%**



Fuji Finepix F30 and WP-FXF30 Housing £369.89

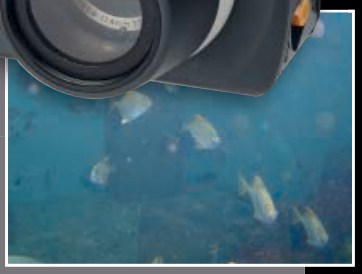
In terms of noise control, the Fujifilm performed very well. The flash diffuser built into the housing also made images less prone (but not immune) to flashback. Where the Fuji fell down a touch was in focusing accuracy. It was speedy enough to establish focus, but not always in the right place. As previewing underwater is difficult (and you don't ideally want to have the camera very close because of air bubbles) this wasn't evident until the images were reviewed after the shoot. **Score: 81%**

Sealife DC 500 inc Housing £289.99

Inside the armoured housing of the DC500, there's a 5MP, 3x optical zoom model. It has land and sea modes and a 'shark' mode that claims virtually no shutter lag. The normal undersea mode, though, is painfully slow. This was easily the hardest camera to use in terms of navigating through features. The mode button required much effort to press, and the screen being small and recessed made this a tricky one to use. Though the focusing worked well, results were noisy and the colours muted. **Score: 77%**

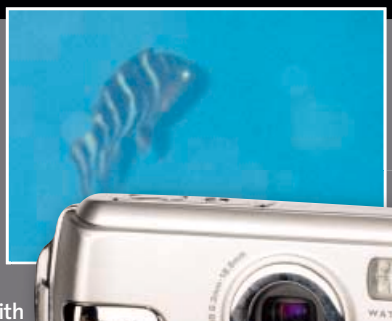
Olympus mju 720SW £299

The Olympus seemed to perform far better at a lower ISO setting. The darker images, shot at ISO 64, were much sharper and more detailed than those at ISO 250, which the camera selected in Auto ISO mode and which were all affected by severe flashback. Using the tiny buttons with gloved or cold fingers was hard, but the LCD was bright. **Score: 84%**



Ricoh Caplio 500G £379

We tried the Ricoh both in normal program mode and in Firefighter mode. The 8MP chip struggled in low light and focusing was very slow. Images were either noisy (as the ISO had been boosted) or blurry or both. To be fair, the Ricoh is designed to be tough, not an underwater camera. **Score: 76%**



Pentax Optio W20 £219

The Pentax's focusing was described by our intrepid tester as slow, and the accuracy of focus was disappointing. Flashback affected every image shot with flash, and images were noisy. The bigger buttons made this an easier proposition than the Olympus to use underwater, but, from the results, this should only be used in absolutely crystal clear waters to avoid the images being spoilt. **Score: 75%**

CONCLUSION

It is pretty difficult to get decent underwater pictures, and using flash will (unless it is diffused) cause any air bubbles to reflect light back into the lens. The image quality winners were Canon for the cameras with housings, and the Olympus for the all-in-ones. The Fuji was easiest to use of the housings and the Ricoh of the all-in-ones. In handling speed, Canon and Fuji shared top spot, while Olympus was top of the all-in-ones.

A BIG THANK YOU

WDC would like to thank Claire Frew from *Motor Boats Monthly* for getting suited up and trying the cameras underwater, Toby Hodges from *Yachting Monthly* and photographer Will Payne for their help in organising the test. Special thanks go to Richard Smith at the Blue Reef Aquarium in Portsmouth (023 9287 5222) for allowing us to test our cameras there. Go to www.bluereefaquarium.co.uk

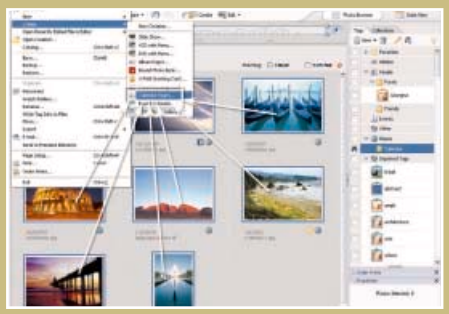
Make A Photo Calendar

Why not give your very own calendar rather than buying one? **Philip Andrews** shows how easy it is

This project not only gives you the chance to show off your photographic and image-editing skills, but you will also be giving a more personal item that is bound to be enjoyed by friends and family all year. Here's how to create a beautiful calendar using Photoshop Elements 4.0.

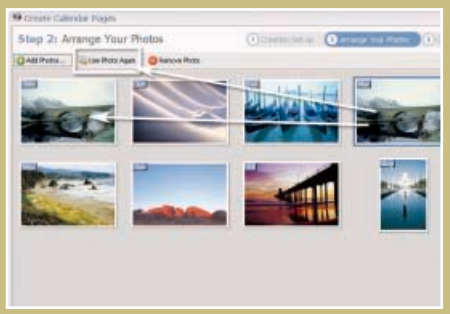
Photoshop Elements for Windows has included a simple to use Calendar project since version 3.0 and – though it has changed its name and workflow a little over the editions – it is still one of the fastest ways to produce calendars that look professional. The Calendar Pages project (version 4.0) takes all the manual labour out of the process by not only providing some great templates for you to add your photos to, but also including an easy-to-use date calculator built right into the dialogue. Simply insert the start and end dates for your calendar, and Elements works out the days and dates for whatever year you choose. The hardest task you have to perform in the whole process is choosing which pictures to include and which to leave out. Here's how:

Step *By Step*



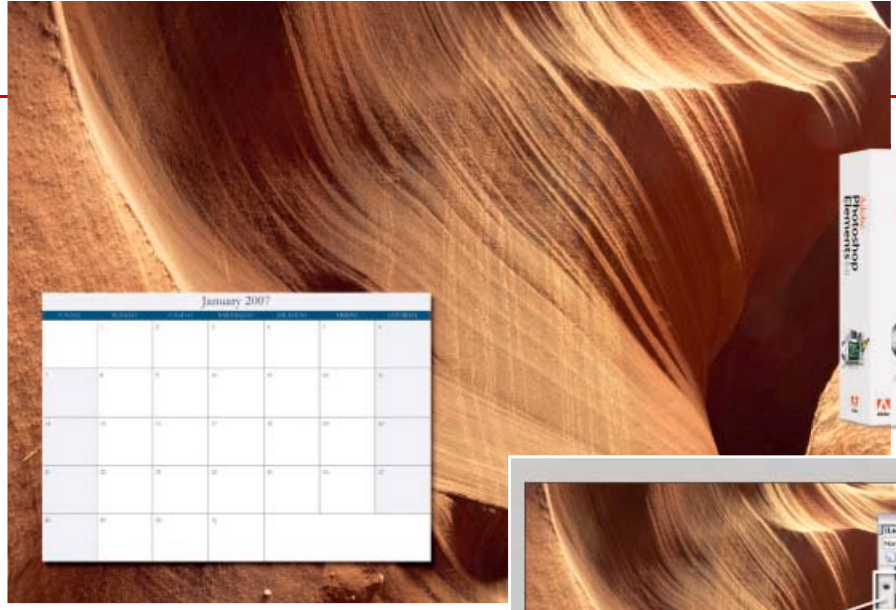
1 Pick *your shots*

Multi-select the pictures that you want to include from the Organizer and then choose the Wall Calendar option from the Photo Creations main screen. You will need 13 photos – one for the cover and 12 for the months. Pick the starting and ending date for the period to be covered by the project and choose whether to include captions or a title. Now select a calendar style from the template thumbnails. Click the Next Step button to continue.



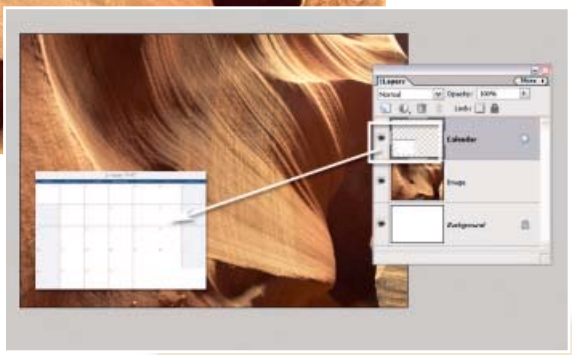
2 Match *to months*

Add or Remove photos from the thumbnail list if you are unhappy with your selection. Click and drag pictures to new positions in the list to adjust where they will be placed in the calendar. The small month label in the top left of each thumbnail indicates which page the picture will be printed on. To use a picture more than once in the project, select its thumbnail and click the Use Photo Again button. Click the Next Step button.



WHAT ABOUT VERSION 5.0?

Adobe has shifted the whole of the calendar-making process onto the net in its latest edition of Elements. Now, after selecting your photographs in the Organizer workspace, choose the **File > Create > Photo Calendar** option and go to the calendar-production wizard. Here you can adjust the selection of photos, choose a design and preview your images. Give your payment details and the order is confirmed. The service, from Kodak, is based in the US, but don't let this bother you; the turnaround time is quick and shipping not too costly.



WITHOUT A TEMPLATE

Don't fancy using a template for your calendar production? Well, for the more-experienced users, creating a stunning month-by-month exhibition of your work starts with the creation of 12 new documents the size and format of the finished calendar. Remember to include extra space at the topmost edge of the document if the calendar is to be spiral bound.

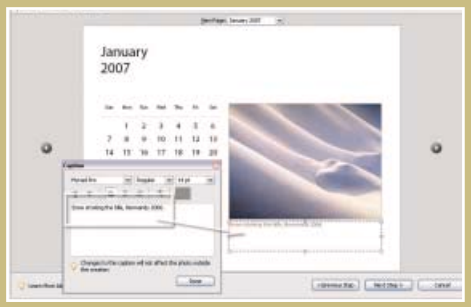
Name each document a month of the year and add the feature photos for each month. If more than one picture is included the images can be montaged together using a soft-edged eraser (or layer mask) to blend the transitions points. When laying out the photos leave space for the day/date table or alternatively place a semi-transparent white box over the area of the picture where the calendar will go. This will provide enough contrast so that the date details are visible while allowing the image to flow through in the background.

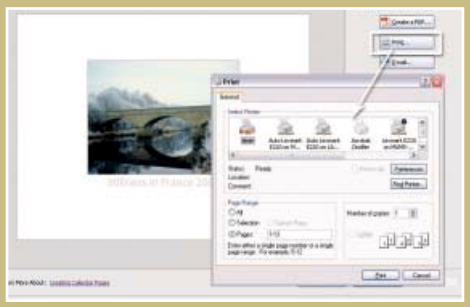
DESIGN AND PRINT

Create tables in your image-editing program with a series of lines and text fields, or use a calendar generator or template (there's one available as a free download for Microsoft Word). Create month-by-month tables, then cut and paste these from Word into your image document. Print the pages on good-quality paper, then take them to your local stationers and get them bound with a spine.

PROFESSIONAL AND BOUND

New for Elements 4.0 was the ability to upload your finished wall calendar to an online publisher who will turn your design into a professional printed and bound calendar that you can share with your friends and relatives. You follow the same steps to create the calendar, except that you need to select a template marked 'Order Online' at the beginning of the process. The next step is for you to register with the publishing company and then step through the upload and order process. Within a few days you will be the proud owner of a personalised calendar.





3 Preview *your work*

In this step you will see a preview of the pictures laid out in each of the months of the calendar. You can arrange the size of the photo in the frame and add titles or descriptions by double-clicking the caption text or by clicking the Add Text button. Move back and forth between months using the side arrows. Click the Next Step button. Now save the wall calendar, so you can edit your settings later. Select the option to include the project in the Photo Browser and then click Save.

4 Order *or print*

As is the case with most Photo Creation software, in Photoshop Elements 4.0 you are provided with several handy options: the opportunity to print the wall calendar, send it to friends and family as an email or save the whole project as a PDF file. After you've finished printing, click the Done button to exit the calendar project. If you want to have your wall calendar professionally printed and bound, create your design with the Bound Calendar option from the Photo Creations screen.

A WEB-BASED ALTERNATIVE

Quality calendar production is not the sole domain of image-editing programs like Photoshop Elements. Most companies that provide digital printing of your precious images can also produce desktop or wall calendars featuring them. You may have to sign up for a free account to start the process but from then on, generally you just select the design you like, upload the photos for each page, and add your payment and delivery details. The finished calendar arrives by post a few days later. Check out these online print shops for different photo calendar options:

- **www.photobox.co.uk**
- **fotoinsight.co.uk**
- **www.kodakgallery.co.uk**

Make Your Own Photo Gifts

Framed prints, xmas cards and personalised wrapping paper are easy to make using Photoshop Elements and your desktop printer

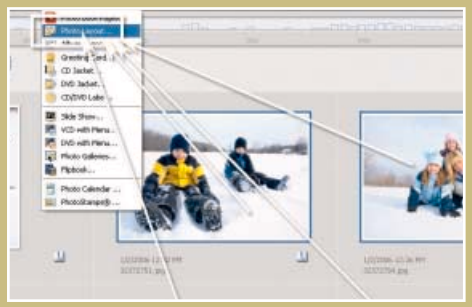
It's Christmas again and you've had a great 12 months capturing a host of photographic masterpieces with the digital camera that the family so kindly bought you last year. Now it's time to show them just what you can do with those pictures.

If you're like most of us, the bulk of the pictures we take never leave the safety and security of our hard drives. But why not break with tradition this Noël and make your presents just that little extra special by incorporating some of your photos as part of the gift.

FRAMED MULTI-PICTURE PRINTS

Let's start with the traditional. Yes, the framed print. This is always a favourite with Mums, Dads and Grandparents as it seems that you can never get enough photos of the ones you love. Even a sneakily snapped picture of a favourite pet, beautifully framed and presented, will please the fussiest of present receivers. The project can be as simple as a single well-composed and focused photo that has been carefully enhanced, printed and framed. Or you can go all out and create something more complicated, such as a multi-image composition that brings together several photos into a single layout, which is again printed and framed. Most photographers will feel fairly comfortable enhancing and outputting a single image, but a multi-picture composite is another matter. Thankfully the cool new Photo Layout feature in Photoshop Elements 5.0 makes the task much easier. Our step-by-step guide shows you how...

Step By Step

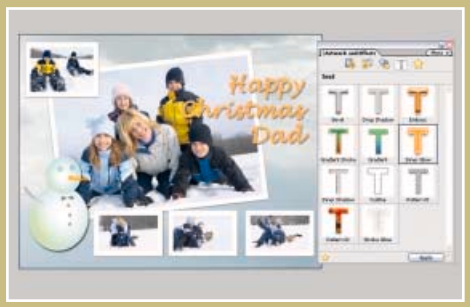


1 Choose your style

Make sure that the photos that you are including in the composition are corrected and enhanced before multi-selecting them in the Organizer space. Select the **File > Create > Photo Layout** option. Next the Full Edit workspace will open and the New Photo Layout dialogue will be displayed. Here you want to choose the document size, layout style (the number of photos to include on a single page) and Theme (various frames and background options). Now click Ok.

2 Position and frame

Elements will create a new document with framed photos and backgrounds. Adjust the size and position of frames with the Move tool. Move corner handles to resize and the rotate handle (centre bottom) to pivot the picture. Double-click, then use the same handles to scale and rotate the picture. To change the background, select a background thumbnail from the Artwork and Effects palette and click Apply. Select a new frame from the palette and drag it over the frame.



3 Add graphics

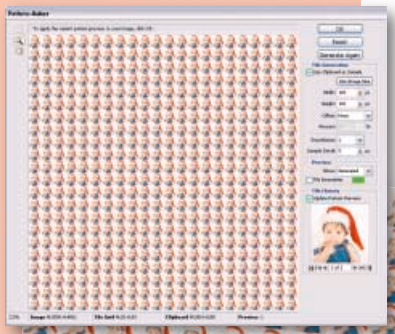
With the basic composition complete, add extra graphics to the layout by dragging them from the Graphics section of the Artwork and Effects palette. Add description text or a season's greeting with the Type tool before altering the style of the text using the Text effects in the same palette. Save the composition and then output the photo to either a desktop printer or via an online printing service.

Make A Photo Xmas *Card*

There is nothing more special than receiving a personalised Christmas card that the sender has spent time creating themselves. Cards can be a simple one-sided 5 x 7-inch print with a message written on the back or they can be a little more sophisticated, allowing for folding with text, and images on the inside and out. The Photo Creations 4-Fold Card project in Photoshop Elements 4.0 contains many different card styles ranging from formal, season's greetings, Valentine and baby cards. Most have decorative borders, appropriate colour schemes and places for you to add your message. But the best part of this feature is the way that the front and inside faces of the project are automatically rotated and arranged so that when it is printed the card is ready for folding. Follow our step-by-step guide below...

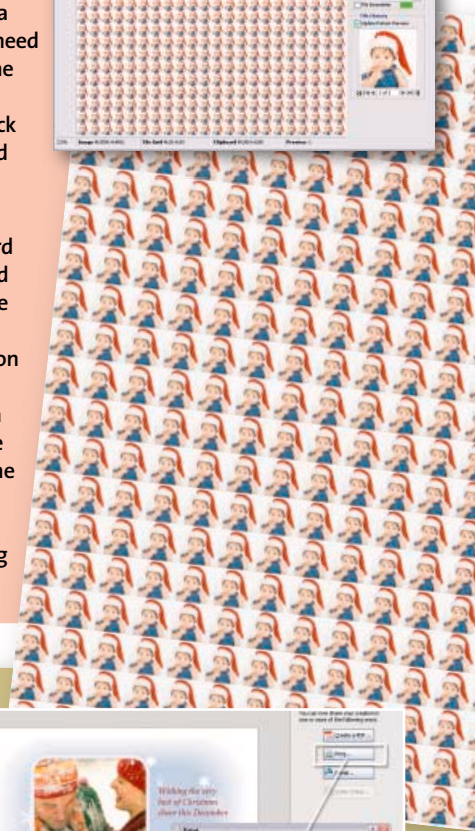
Make Photo Wrapping *Paper*

Create your own wrapping paper quickly and easily using Photoshop's Pattern Maker filter (**Filter > Pattern Maker**). This feature uses a selected photo as the base for producing your own wrapping paper from your photos. The Pattern Maker feature contains a preview area that displays the patterns you generate, controls for the amount of detail included in the pattern (Sample Detail control), the smoothness of the transition between the tiles (Smoothness control) as well as the ability to navigate back and forth between all the tiles that you create in a single session.

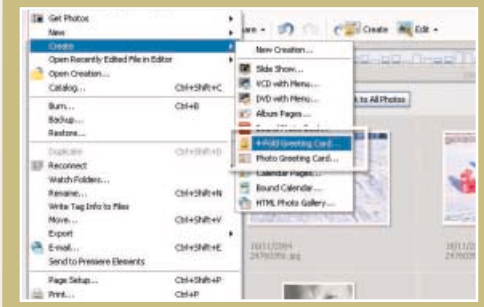


STEP 1 Use one of the New Document presets to create a blank file the size of the sheet of wrapping paper (say, A3). Next open the image that you are going to use and select a portion of the photo or the whole picture. If the picture was shot on a high-megapixel camera you may need to downsize the photo first. Use the **Edit > Copy** command to store the selected area on the Clipboard. Click back onto the blank document and choose **Filter > Pattern Maker.**

STEP 2 Choose the Use Clipboard As Sample option to use the copied as for the pattern making. Click the Generate button. If you are happy with the results press the OK button to apply the pattern to the whole of the blank document. To create a different pattern you can press the Generate Again button. To fine tune the results you can play with the File Size, Smoothness and Sample Detail settings before regenerating the pattern on screen.

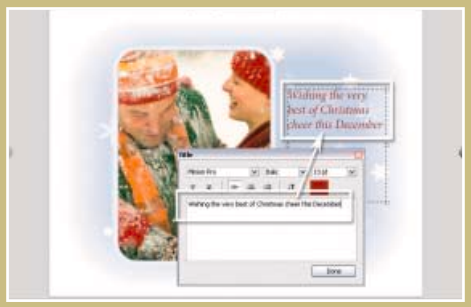


Step *By Step*



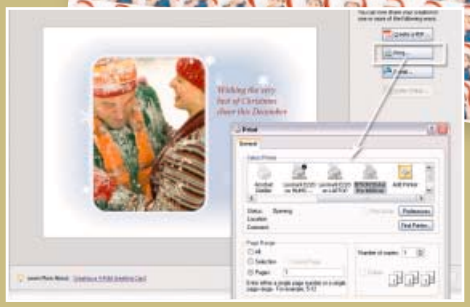
1 Select *photo*

From the Organizer, select the picture you want to feature on the card. Choose the Card option from the Photo Creations main screen. Choose a card style from the template thumbnails on the right of the screen. Click the Next Step button to continue. If you are unhappy with your choice, substitute a different photo for the one that you have selected using the Add or Remove Photos buttons. Now click Next Step.



2 Write *and design*

You will see a preview of the front and inside of the card. Double-click on text to change it. Move between inside and outside the card using the side arrows. Click the Next Step button. Clicking once on the text allows you to move the writing around on the card. Double-clicking will open a text window which can be used for changing the text's font, colour and size. Click the Next Step button.



3 Save *and print*

By selecting the Use Title For Name option, the project will be saved using the card title as the file name. Saving the project file means that you can return to the card at a later date and make further changes. Select the option to include the Card project in the Photo Browser, and then click the Save button. You can choose to print, email your card or create a PDF file of the project. Click the Done button.

WIN! A LEXMARK™

The sender of the Letter of the Month wins the stylish Lexmark P450, the first 6" by 4" photo printer to boast a built-in CD burner, allowing you to save, store and share pictures more easily than ever. Capture those magic moments then simply transfer them from your memory card to CD. You can also print directly from a Bluetooth mobile phone

WDC *Letters*

Write to the Editor at: What Digital Camera, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS
Tel: 020 7261 5323 Fax: 020 7261 5398 Or email: wdc@ipcmedia.com

Thanks for *the support*

From: Mike Davis

Holidaying in Sicily a week or two back, I regretted that I was unable to get shots of attractive night scenes due to not having taken my tripod. Then, suddenly, I remembered that stowed away in the bottom of my camera bag was the small folding tripod which had been given away free with an issue of WDC earlier this year. Thus I was able to capture pictures I had thought were 'untakeable'. I thought I'd write and say 'thank you' to WDC for making these pictures possible.

How to *choose a digital SLR*

From: James Henderson

It seems people are jumping from Nikon to Canon and vice versa simply because manufacturer X is producing a better camera body at that moment. This seems a little peculiar.

I'm a Canon EOS user with a significant investment in lenses etc, and am unlikely to change because it would be too expensive. I chose Canon because I liked the feel of it in my hands and I could use it fluently. As good as the Nikon was, and it did feel nice, I was all thumbs with it.

At the time, sure, Nikon had better bodies, Canon had better AF systems (for sports etc), but they all catch up with each other in the end (otherwise they'd be out of business) and both systems are capable of producing superb photos. It now looks like other manufacturers are coming to play as well, and good luck to them.

My tips for choosing a DSLR are: pick one that's comfortable to hold and carry around; make sure the controls are intuitive; and don't worry about the features you don't need, just the ones you do.

If you want to make an investment, buy decent lenses; bodies change and get superseded – decent lenses last a lot longer and are usually the thing that makes you smile more when you see the results.

I couldn't believe the difference a Canon 'L' lens made compared to my standard zoom – much better than any body upgrade. I'm sure Nikon users would agree.

Nigel replies: *Some very sensible and well-argued advice, James.*

Inside, we're thinking: 'Who can I give this to next year?'

Editor's *Comment*

Christmas *Dilemmas*

I love Christmas but there are some aspects of it that I could happily do without. Like most men I'm not keen on shopping at the best of times, but from about now till the end of the year it can be hell. The thought of trudging through packed shopping centres and queueing up to buy overpriced tat for the relatives fills me with dread. No wonder online shopping is becoming so popular. There's a strange present-exchange ritual whereby we know that our gifts are useless, and the recipients know it too, and they give us equally useless things in return. Then we both smile and say 'Thanks, that's just what I needed', while inside we're thinking 'who can I give this to next year?' or 'how much will this fetch on eBay?' (I hope none of my relatives are reading this.)

That's why over the past couple of years I've been gradually phasing out the scented candles and matching stationery sets in favour of gifts made from my photos. Usually they're pictures of the kids for grannies and so forth, but, unlike that snakeskin spatula set, they are received with genuine pleasure. They're more personal, and they know that more trouble has been taken in their selection. Of all the gifts you can make from your photos the bound photobooks are the most impressive. They're still new enough for most people to have not seen them before, so they have a great wow factor. The one I got from Photobox for the feature on page 61 took less than an hour to make, was ordered at 10.30pm on a Wednesday night and was delivered to my door on Friday morning. And all without having to leaving the house.

Of course it isn't just about presents for other people – I get presents too. Sadly, most of the things I want are connected with photography and are too expensive. Mind you, there are quite a few accessories in our gift round-up that I'd quite like.

But what I really want are some new lenses. This is the first Christmas that I've actually owned my own digital SLR. To be honest, with a constant revolving door of new DSLRs coming into the office for review, I didn't actually need to buy one, but my collection of Nikon lenses have been a bit lonely since I retired my F4 body, so I got them a D200 for company. And very nice it is too. But now I want some new lenses and I can't decide whether to get a 12-24mm to go with the 24-85mm I have already, or trade in the latter and get an 18-70mm or 18-135mm. Decisions, decisions.

6"x4" photo printer with CD burner

(using Bluetooth technology with the purchase of an optional adaptor) or from a memory card. With a built-in 2.4-inch LCD screen and great editing functions, you can crop, rotate, colour fix and remove redeye, effects such as sepia and antique grey. The Lexmark P450 is priced £149.99. For stockists call 0870 444 0044. See **www.lexmark.co.uk** for more details.

Perserve with *RAW*

From: Gerald Ramshaw

May I encourage Gemma Mather to persevere with RAW? (Nov Letters) When I bought my Canon 350D, I shot simultaneously in both RAW and JPEG for comparison and, to my surprise, found that the results appeared better in JPEG. I tried, without success, to correspond with Canon about it and sent them some shots. Without any explanation they just kept saying 'We believe RAW is better' when, from my evidence, it was not. In particular, there was more highlight detail in the JPEG images than in the RAW processed by Canon's Digital Professional software.

Then, I updated to Elements 3 so I could use Adobe's RAW plug-in for the Canon. Immediately, the game changed significantly and I found I was able to retrieve much more information from a shot than had been possible before. In particular, I could recover 'lost' highlight detail in, say, the white surf of breaking waves or the shadows of a shady woodland shot.

Next, I purchased DxO Optical Pro and experienced a further increase in quality. So, my advice would be to look at your software. JPEG images are very good, but properly processed RAW really is a revelation.

Stick to *JPEG*

From: Bob Black

I agree with Gemma Mather's comments on JPEGs (Nov Letters) but for different reasons. I'm not interested in RAW because I seldom manipulate my images, and JPEGs give me large enough prints.

I've been taking photographs for over 35 years and of course I started with film. Digital photography has many advantages but the emphasis seems to be on image manipulation rather than photography, and photographers have become digital technicians.

I am a photographer: one who takes photographs. I aim to get the correct image when I press the shutter and, apart from odd crop, try not to change that image – I just print it. I still sell the occasional picture to specialist magazines and again I try to submit a finished picture as close to the image I took when I pressed the shutter.

So I'm not interested in RAW – my JPEGs will print up to A4/8x11 without apparent loss and are good enough for a cover. What more could I ask?

Free B&W *Plug-In*

From: Maureen McLaren

After reading the B&W section (Oct issue) I thought I'd share a Photoshop plug-in that gives PC users a whole range of colour and B&W effects. It's called 'Virtual Photographer' and is a free download. You can find it at **http://www.optikvervelabs.com/download.asp** This image was created using the 'reminiscing' setting.

Praise for *Microsoft*

From: Peter Tomlin

I recommend Microsoft Digital Image Suite 10 as an alternative processing software to Adobe Photoshop. In my opinion it is much easier to use, the results are excellent and it's cheaper. Why is it never referred in WDC?

Nigel replies: *We have reviewed previous versions but to be honest we didn't think much of it. But as long as you're happy with it, that's what counts. Perhaps we'll take a look at this most recent incarnation.*

WHAT DIGITAL CAMERA

Next *Month*

BOOK OF TESTS 2006

Reviews of over 100 cameras and 50 accessories tested in 2006

PLUS THE BIG TEST

CANON D400 VERSUS NIKON D80

We answer the definitive question – which one is the best?

PLUS

Latest Compacts

from Nikon, Canon, Samsung, Kodak and Olympus

ON SALE 1st DEC

what's **new** on whatdigitalcamera.com

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Who *Dunnit?*

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New Roxio Easy Media Creator 9 Suite has everything you need to edit, copy, back up, and burn your video, photo, music and data files to CD or DVD.

Web Forum *Chat*

Spotted on the Forums this week..

Infrared SLR *Photography*

Posted by: northernrog
Board: Digital Capture
Has anyone tried taking infrared with the Konica Minolta D7? I have made a few efforts with a Hoya R72 filter and some of the outcomes are OK-ish when converted to B&W in Photoshop, but that's all. Have you tried it and been happy with the outcomes? If so, I would be very grateful if you were willing to pass on any info.

Posted by:Fen
The trick is to focus the lens BEFORE putting on the R72 filter. I tend to use ISO 100, f6 for 6 seconds. Works a treat on my 20D.

Posted by:hotblack
I've done it on my D50. The effect can be very good. Not so on the D200 as the IR filter over the sensor has been 'improved'. I shoot in Raw so I can control the white balance and have set a custom White Balance in the camera to help.

Posted by:wbk666
I've used a 350D for it but the camera is not the best for it. Long exposures, even with a high ISO, are a problem for a start and then finding a lens that doesn't have a 'hot spot' like the kit lens does is a pain, though the 50mm f1.8 is fine.

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Card number ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

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Despatch is within 28 days. You will be notified if a longer delay is expected. If you're not completely satisfied, please return goods within 14 days for a no-quibble, money-back guarantee on goods returned in pristine condition. Closing date is 1st December 2006. Offer subject to availability.

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- **Overall service**
- **Friendly, knowledgeable staff**
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- **After-sales care**
- **Competitive prices**
- **Quick delivery** *(Online retailer specific)*
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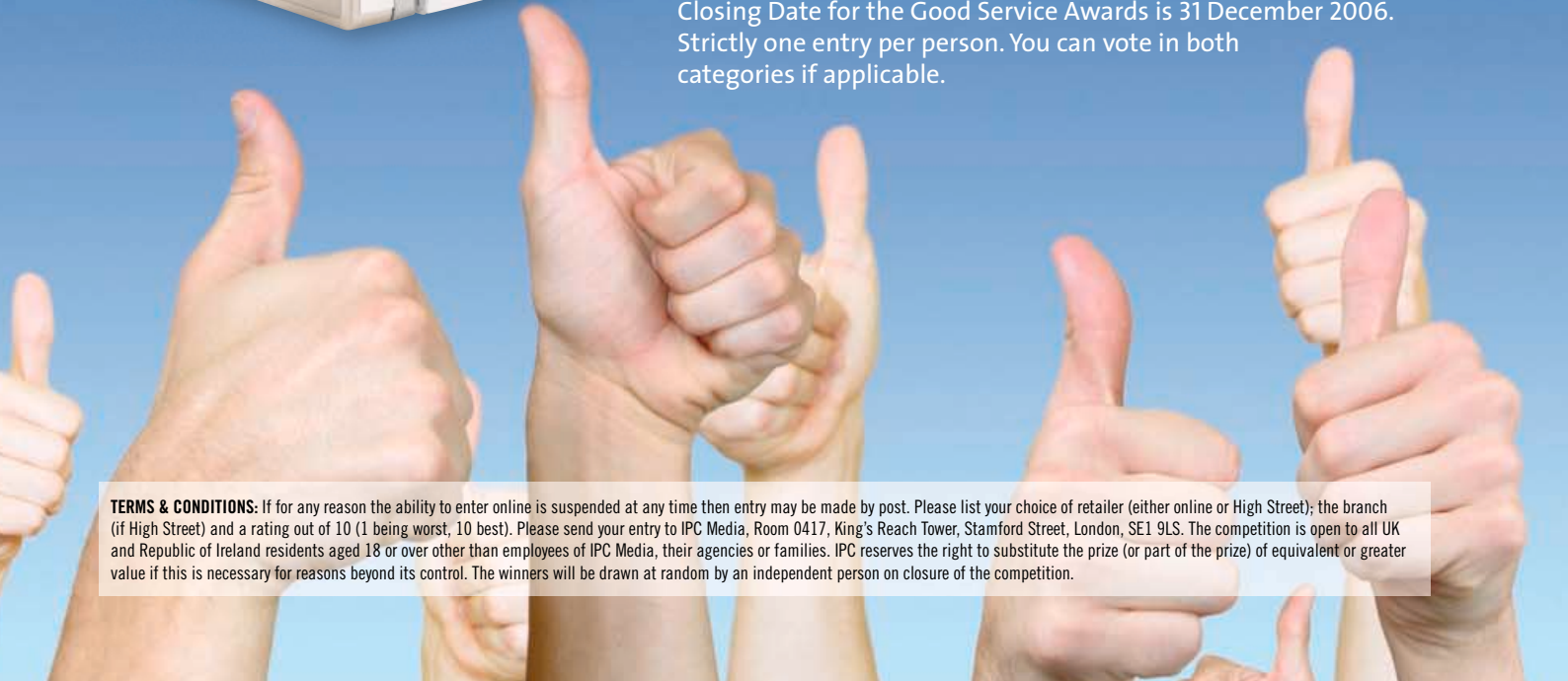
For more information about this camera visit **www.kodak.com**
Closing Date for the Good Service Awards is 31 December 2006. Strictly one entry per person. You can vote in both categories if applicable.



TERMS & CONDITIONS: If for any reason the ability to enter online is suspended at any time then entry may be made by post. Please list your choice of retailer (either online or High Street); the branch (if High Street) and a rating out of 10 (1 being worst, 10 best). Please send your entry to IPC Media, Room 0417, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS. The competition is open to all UK and Republic of Ireland residents aged 18 or over other than employees of IPC Media, their agencies or families. IPC reserves the right to substitute the prize (or part of the prize) of equivalent or greater value if this is necessary for reasons beyond its control. The winners will be drawn at random by an independent person on closure of the competition.

Evening *Class*

Photographer, author and Photoshop guru Martin Evening passes his verdict on a selection of your photos

See page 6 for details on how to send us your digital images

Niagara *Falls*

By Dean M Frate
Camera Canon Powershot G2

'My family and I were vacationing in Niagara Falls, Canada, and went for a stroll before bed when the falls were dramatically lit. A digital panorama was the only way I could faithfully capture the sights. I used a pocket-sized tripod to steady my digital camera on a rock wall and I shot using an overlap of about 30% between frames.'

Martin says: *I never realised that the Niagara Falls were illuminated like this during the night-time. It looks like quite a spectacular scene. There was no way that Dean could have captured this in one shot, so he made a good call by choosing to merge a sequence of individual images, to create the panorama shown here. There are various ways you can do this. In Photoshop, for example, the Photomerge command will allow you to automatically stitch such a sequence together. As Dean points out, it helps if you mount the camera on a tripod and take care to overlap the pictures by about 30%. This will make it easier for the Photomerge plug-in to register the images seamlessly.*

Funny *Guy*

By Altus Eitner
Camera Canon 350D

'This shot was taken in Mt. Abu in India, while drinking coffee at a local vendor. I used my Tamron 18-200mm Di lens.'

Martin says: *It looks like this photograph has been cropped more tightly at the edit stage, which is fine, because Altus obviously noticed afterwards how the portrait of the local coffee seller had more impact when a closer crop was used. If you have a zoom lens like the one used, you can try different zoom levels at the time of shooting and fire off a sequence of pictures with a closer cropped view.*

Kazakhstan *Tundra*

By Andrew Rumford
Camera Canon PowerShot Pro 1

'I've just started getting into photography and I travel with my camera to use on my job. These pictures were taken in Kazakhstan on the way through the Step of Kazakhstan to the oilrig I am working on at present. I've just got my Pro 1 and have been enjoying the results I am getting.'

Martin says: *What do you do to capture an interesting photograph when the landscape scenery appears to be uniformly flat as shown here? Well, for a start, it helps to get the horizon level, which isn't always that easy. So, it is useful to learn some of the techniques for straightening a picture. For example, you can rotate using the Crop tool in Photoshop to get it to align to the horizon line.*

Sunlit *Alley*

By Clive Moore
Camera Fujifilm S5000

'Taken at Lake Garda in one of the lakeside villages I was exploring. My camera was on Auto and ISO 200.'

Martin says: *A charming picture of a fairly typical Mediterranean street scene. The lack of activity and the architectural style makes it very appealing, but all the more so because of the shaft of sunlight shining in from above. It is often worthwhile making use of this evening light, but you have to ensure that the camera lens is adequately shielded, so you won't get any lens flare.*

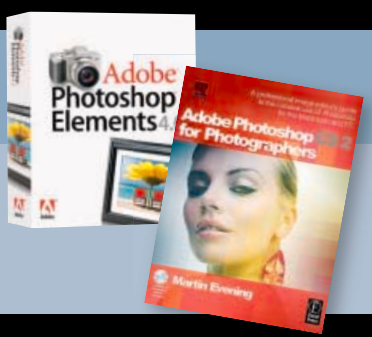
Rusty *Chains*

By David Handley
Camera Canon 300D

'This photo was taken at the Llangollen steam railway yard in Llangollen, North Wales while trying to work to a theme of dereliction.

Martin says: *David submitted a lot of really fine photographs of boats, dockyard scenes and railway detail shots for me to look at. This photograph is subdued in terms of colour, but I like the texture and colour of the smooth chain links.*

MARTIN EVENING: Martin is a photographer, Photoshop alpha tester, international Adobe Roadshow speaker and author of the definitive, worldwide best-selling manual, Adobe Photoshop for Photographers. Visit his website at **www.martinevening.com**



EVERY PICTURE PUBLISHED WINS A CHOICE OF MARTIN EVENING'S BOOK ADOBE PHOTOSHOP CS2 FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS, OR ADOBE ELEMENTS 4.0

Adobe Photoshop CS2 for Photographers, by Martin Evening, is the definitive, worldwide best-selling guide to Photoshop. Priced £27.99 with a tutorial packed CD-ROM. Visit **www.focalpress.com**

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the Help file

A problem shared *is a problem solved!*

Send your questions to us at **wdchelpfile@ipcmedia.com**

Nigel Atherton | Ian Burley | Natalie Hitchins | Steve Crabb

The Sky's *The Limit*

From: Darrin Mayne

I have recently bought the Nikon D50 DSLR and am very impressed with it. The only thing that I am puzzled about is viewing photos through both the viewfinder and via the LCD. A few of the shots, especially with a white background (ie sky) come out on the viewfinder and LCD with a dark flashing image that doesn't disappear and keeps flashing. I assume it is something to do with white/blackness in the photograph but I don't want to query it further until I can get some advice. Would it be a fault?

NATALIE REPLIES: *Don't panic! What you are encountering is a feature designed to warn photographers of overexposed highlights within their images. It's a function that many photographers find helpful, as levels and brightness are not always easy to accurately review on an LCD.*

Overexposed highlights can leave large portions of an image devoid of detail and tonal graduation. This may be tolerable if it's just the sky that's blown but if you find important parts of your scene flashing then you've probably over-exposed your shot and will need to reduce the exposure. If you find this warning feature annoying, it can be switched off in the camera's playback options menu or via the four-way controller on the back – or you can use the histogram instead.

On The *Camera Trail*

From: Andy Robinson

I'm going to be trekking the Inca trail next April and am looking for a camera for the trip. I currently have a Panasonic FZ5 which I am happy with but think it's a little large to take with me. What I'm after is something that will offer good images in 'point and click' mode but has a decent zoom, and is not too bulky. Also compatibility with my current SD cards would be nice. I have around £250-300 to spend. Resolution is not the be all and end all. My current line of thinking is the Panasonic TZ1, 5MP 10x zoom with image stabilisation and a decent size. The only downside I can see is no optical viewfinder and Li-ion battery (still, a couple of fully charged spares should see me through eight days?).

I'm completely open to other manufacturers; the only reason I picked out the TZ is that I already have a Panasonic and am comfortable with its handling/menus etc. I realise that an element of compromise is going to be needed, as the perfect camera in my price bracket for me doesn't exist, or does it?

NATALIE REPLIES: *When it comes to camera size to zoom ratio, as the world's smallest 10x optical zoom camera, the TZ1 won't be beaten. The £299 Nikon Coolpix S10 comes close, with its swivelling 10x zoom lens, Image Stabilisation, Face Recognition and D-Lighting. However, if a viewfinder and AA sized batteries are high priorities (taking spare Li-ions will be costly and may be risky) then consider the Canon PowerShot S3 IS. The camera offers AA battery compatibility, a viewfinder, SD card storage, and costs around £250 online. It also features a 12x optically stabilised zoom and scored highly in our tests. It's a fair bit bulkier than the TZ1 and S10 though.*

Top Tips

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Always check what equipment comes with a camera before you buy. Think about the power source in particular. This is supplied by either AA sized batteries or a rechargeable NiCad or Li-ion system. Rechargeable power sources are naturally more cost effective, but frequent travellers, for example, may prefer the freedom of universally available AA cells.

All At Sea

From: Helen Crew

I have recently bought a Nikon D50 with an 18-55mm lens as my first digital SLR. My aim is to invest in a good lens that will allow me to photograph my partner when he is out sailing. Can you please help me figure out what the best lens is for me? My budget is up to £1500, but would consider more expensive recommendations.

NIGEL SAYS: *Helen, you don't mention whether you will be out sailing with your partner, or, as I suspect, (since you say 'when he is out'), taking pictures from the shoreline. If it's the latter, you'll want a good telephoto range: up to 300mm or 400mm perhaps, plus a decent tripod. To cover all bases take a look at the 200-400mm f/4G ED-IF AF-S VR Zoom-Nikkor lens, equipped with 'Vibration Reduction'.*

Which Canon?

From: Jan Bless

I want to buy my first digital camera, and having read various reviews I reckon that for my money the Canon S3 IS or Canon S80 are the best. I don't mind the bulkier S3 but the 12x zoom isn't necessarily a must have. The pictures I take are mainly of family and holidays, although I would like to be a bit more creative and try out some still life as well.

NIGEL SAYS: *These are two very different cameras so saying which is best isn't easy. Obviously the S3 IS has a much bigger zoom, but if you're not fussed about that I wonder why you shortlisted it. One of the other big differences, for me, is that the S3 IS has an electronic viewfinder (EVF) while the S80 has an optical one. Personally I hate EVFs but many people love them, so it's something you'd have to try yourself in a shop before buying. As for the S80, looking back through the past few issues I note that it's the camera we've recommended more than any other. It's a great camera with a superb build, good interface, useful 28-100mm lens and great image quality. It lacks RAW shooting but if you can live without that I can heartily recommend it. I believe it's been discontinued but should still be on sale. Canon would be mad not to replace it because it seems to be many people's perfect compact.*

Optical Illusion

From: Jim McFarlane

I read with interest in your magazine that Nikon is withdrawing the 70-300mm ED lens. Do you know if it will be replaced by a 70-300 DX lens? It seems pointless to buy a non-digital lens when a new digital one might be on sale soon.

NIGEL SAYS: *The 70-300mm ED lens is being replaced by a new lens which was launched with the D80 SLR. If you deconstruct its full title (the AF-S VR 70-300mm f/4.5-5.6G IF-ED) you'll discern that it offers Vibration Reduction (very useful at this focal range to reduce camera shake) as well as internal focusing and superior ED glass. Maximum aperture is f/4.5 at wideangle and f/5.6 at telephoto. At £399 it's more expensive than the lens it's replacing but better quality and, of course, it's fully digital compatible.*

Top Tips

HAVING A TIFF

When saving your image as a Tiff, you'll be given several compression options. For optimum image quality make sure you select 'None' to ensure your image isn't compressed. Other available options such as LZW (Lempel-Ziv-Welch) will irreversibly compress your picture, whereas ZIP will initially compress your image, with an option to uncompress it later using a special program such as WinZip or Stuffit Expander.

Byte Size

Filter Fitting

From: Dave Lloyd

Like Kevin McElhinney (*Letters*, September), I bought a Panasonic FZ7 and needed a filter. The camera instruction book doesn't give the filter size needed. You recommended a generic 55mm filter. Unfortunately this didn't fit. Is it possibly a 52mm?

NIGEL SAYS: *The correct filter size seems to be a closely guarded secret, as it isn't mentioned anywhere in Panasonic's literature or website. When I called them to find out, they told me it was 55mm. However, they have now confirmed that 52mm is the correct measurement, but if you're using a conversion lens adaptor then 55mm fits.*

The urge to surge

From: Frank Watson

I have a Pentax Optio S50. For some time there has been no trouble downloading to my PC but recently when I connect it via cable to my PC a dialogue box says: 'Power surge on the hub port. A USB device has exceeded the power limits of its hub port'. I've tried to download on another PC with the same results. I assume the problem is with my camera/cable? Is there a remedy?

NATALIE SAYS: *Buy a card reader; it can be left permanently on your desktop, is powered purely by the PC and will spare you the heartache of compatibility issues.*

Watery Grave

From: Bob

I dropped my Olympus C-450 in the sea, which put a swift end to it. I can either buy a reconditioned C-450 from an online surplus store or buy a new camera – maybe the Olympus FE 150. I was happy with the C-450, but is the FE 150 better? And is surplus returns stock to be trusted?

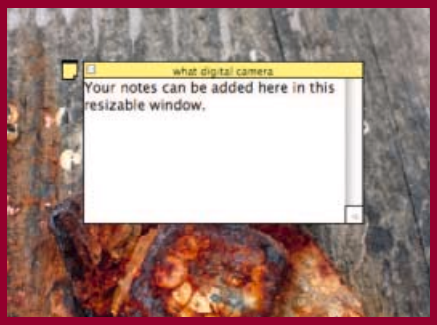
NIGEL SAYS: *Technology has moved on, Bob, so I'd get a new camera. The FE150 has been replaced now. The new FE models are the 170, 180 and 200. The FE170 is tested in this issue (page 62) and scored well, though if you do like to be beside the seaside, and you can stretch to £275, the waterproof and shockproof Olympus Mju 725SW (reviewed on p38) would be a better investment.*

Jargon Buster

Everything you need to know about image-editing, but in alphabetical order. This month we continue with N and O

N is for...

NOTES
This option allows you to add a small 'Post It' note style window direct onto your image canvas. You can type useful text here such as reminders or instructions. Recordable notes can also be added, but a microphone must be attached to your PC first.



NEW
Creates a brand new blank document.

NOISE
Noise is something that can be found in digital images where low light causes small dots, blemishes or grains to appear. In Photoshop, this can be added with the use of the Noise filter. Film grain effects can be achieved with this enhancement.

NAVIGATOR
The Navigator palette allows you to find your way around an image at close range. If you zoom right into an image, drag the small square around the Navigator palette to move your point of view on the document.

OPACITY
This slider option can fade out the transparency of a layer. Opacity can also be found with certain tools, allowing you to adjust the strength of each application.

ONLINE SERVICES
This feature gives you the option to send your images to online companies such as photo printing services. These can then be purchased over the internet.

OTHER (FILTERS)
These filters are customisable to your requirements. They are here because they do not fit under any of the main filter listings.

OPTIONS
The options for a feature or tool can be found either by clicking on the small arrow in the top right of a palette, or up in the image menu bar. Most options are customisable.

Wide but noisy

From: John McIntosh

I'm considering buying the Panasonic Lumix LX1 digital camera because it is now available at a sensible price. However I am concerned by the mixed reviews I've read regarding noise levels at ISO 100 and above when shooting in low light. If the sensor is set to a lower resolution, say 5.5MP, and prints are made at 5x7 inches, will noise levels at higher ISO still be an issue?

NIGEL REPLIES: *Although the LX1 is obviously not best suited to low-light photography – look to the likes of Fuji's F30 (up to ISO3200) for that – the LX1 is otherwise a great camera, one of my favourites in fact. I love the design and the 16:9 widescreen format. You shouldn't have problems with visible image noise at ISO 100, or at the lower resolution settings, even when viewed 100%. At lower resolutions noise will be naturally less visible, as not as much detail is captured – which is why some digital cameras automatically drop the resolution when shooting at high ISOs.*

Ask Adobe

Got a question on Photoshop or Elements? Ask Adobe's imaging guru Terry Steeley

Terry Steeley *represents Adobe as a speaker at seminars and trade shows worldwide, and is recognised as a world-class Photoshop specialist. His popular Photoshop4Photographers seminars cater for all abilities and cover all aspects of capturing and editing digital images.*

Terry is also the author of Iridius Actions, a CD collection of over 90 production and creative actions for Photoshop designed to streamline and automate common tasks. For more details visit ***www.photoshop4photographers.co.uk***

Digital Lightbox

From: Sam Lock

I recently attended a photographic seminar where you described your use of the Adobe Bridge Ratings feature. Can you please provide me with a refresher of the technique?

TERRY REPLIES: *Begin by copying your images from your camera's card onto your computer. Now, open Adobe Bridge. In the content area you'll see four panels. In the top left corner, click on the Folders Panel tab and then use the Folders Panel to navigate to the location of your images folder. To view sub folders, click the plus sign (Windows) or the triangle (Mac). When you arrive at your images folder, the contents can be viewed in the larger thumbnails panel.*

Click on the applications label menu to familiarise yourself with the menu items and their keyboard shortcuts. Note, that the Star Ratings are intelligently organised with one star being applied using the Command 1 shortcut and five stars using Command 5.

Next, from the View menu, select Slide Show. One of your images will be displayed full screen. Pressing H on the keyboard displays the Slide Show commands, pressing H again will hide the commands. We need to display the full caption. Press C until Caption: Full is displayed. The grading system I use is that images with three stars are OK, five are great, one may be sharp but badly composed, zero are to be trashed.

Look at the image and apply a star grading using the keyboard shortcuts seen earlier in the Labels menu (Command 0 - 5). When the image is rated move to the next image by pressing the right arrow and rate again and so on. When complete, Bridge will exit the Slide Show. Finally, to view images you have identified with a specific Rating, use the Unfiltered menu (top right corner of the content window) and Filter down your image selection.

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To ensure that you never miss an Adobe or Iridius seminar where Terry Steeley is presenting his own essential Photoshop techniques/tips and tricks, **visit www.iridius.co.uk/mailinglist** and sign up for our newsletter.

High ISO DSLR?

From: Robert Ollenbutte

I'm hoping to invest in either the Canon EOS 400D or Nikon D80. I understand that Canon cameras are regarded as the best for high ISO photos, but I have also read that the Nikon D80 beats the Canon in this respect. Which would you recommend overall and which is better for high ISO pictures? Given that I am hoping to start a budding career selling photos to stock libraries, are these cameras sufficient for this? If, say, the Canon is a worse camera than the Nikon, is Canon a better company to invest in (in terms of lenses etc) or vice versa?

NIGEL SAYS: *While we haven't yet compared them head to head (that will be in the next issue) our evidence suggests that the Nikon is better in this regard. It has quite a good noise-reduction function, with three levels of strength (low, medium and high, plus the option to turn it off). The Canon's noise reduction is only designed to counter noise from long exposures, not high ISO shooting (which isn't necessarily the same).*

As for your long-term investment, either would be a good choice. Both offer an extensive system of top-quality accessories. Probably 95% of all pros who use DSLRs use either Canon or Nikon. Canon has a larger share in some areas (press, sports etc) while Nikon is used more by the Police, the Forces and industry.

The Alpha Factor

From: Phil Sandercott

Having just re-read your review on the Alpha 100 I notice that you say that the anti-shake system lets you reduce the shutter speed without camera shake being evident in the finished photo. However you say that, as there is a multiplication factor due to the size of the sensor, we would have to treat a 200mm lens as a 300mm lens. This does not make sense to me as the sensor size does not really alter the focal length of the lens but essentially just crops the image. If what you say was true, then if we took a picture on a full frame camera at the slowest speed possible and then cropped it to a smaller size, it would suddenly develop camera shake blurring! It could be that I'm missing something here, could you please explain it to me?

NATALIE SAYS: *Our review stated that Sony has refined its anti-shake system to allow shutter speeds of up to 3.5 stops slower than would normally be achieved. In our example of a traditional 200mm lens this would equate to around 1/25 sec, rather than usual slowest shutter speed of 1/250 sec (around the same number as the lens' focal length). We took into account that the same lens on a digital camera is bestowed with a multiplication factor of 1.5x, hence the 200mm is actually equivalent to 300mm.*

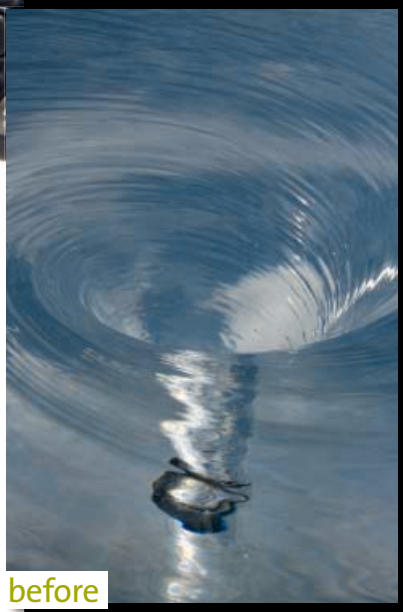
Martin Evening's Digital Surgery

What's wrong with this picture? Martin formulates his diagnosis and nurses it back to health

Whirl pool

By Ian Campbell
Camera Canon 350D

'I recently bought my new Canon EOS 350D, and I enclose some pictures I have taken during my family day out at Alnwick Gardens in Northumberland.'


before

MARTIN SAYS: ***There were a lot of pictures of Ian's that we could have used, but I thought I would include this one here because it is a dramatic photograph of a whirlpool, which I gather was part of a fountain display in Alnwick Gardens, Northumberland. But this is photograph that could use a contrast boost.***

Here's how

STEP 1 It appears to me that nothing much has been done to properly optimise the tones in this image. A quick glance at the histogram in the Levels dialogue tells us that the shadows are weak in density. We can address that by moving the Shadow input slider in quite dramatically, to clip the shadows quite severely. Technically, the highlights are clipped. But since these are reflective highlights, there is no real detail in them as such. In this instance it is a good idea to clip the highlights a lot. One does not have to worry about losing highlight detail here.

STEP 2 Here you can see what a dramatic difference a simple Levels adjustment can make to almost any photograph. Although I have severely clipped both the shadows and the highlights, I haven't really destroyed any of the more important detail. But I have instead brought a lot more contrast to the image and at the same time increased the blue saturation.

After

DIGITAL SLR's

Nikon D200

Faster when it counts. Rugged where it matters...

...the D200 delivers the incomparable quality of professional pictures whilst offering exceptional versatility, creative responsiveness, accuracy and full manual control. This has to be the perfect camera for the semi-professional and freelancer who want an affordable SLR.

10.2 MEGA PIXELS

D200 BODY ONLY	~~£999~~ £950 or £40 mth
D200 Bundles...	
AF-S 18-70mm	£1130 or £48 mth
AF-S 17-55mm	~~£1899~~ £1870 or £78 mth

Nikon D80

new

10.2 MEGA PIXELS

D80 BODY ONLY	£555
D80 + AF-S DX 18-70	£733
D80 + AF-S DX 18-135	~~£797~~ £767

Nikon D50

The D50 is the ideal introduction to Digital SLR photography, with a wide range of automatic features to take great photographs easily.

D50 BODY ONLY	£325 or £14 mth
D50 Bundles...	
AF-S DX 18-55mm f3.5-5.6 G ED	£374 or £16 mth
AF-S DX 18-70mm f3.5-4.5 G IF ED	£480 or £21 mth
AF-S DX 18-55mm & AF-S DX 55-200mm	~~£548~~ £528 or £23 mth

Nikon D2Hs

41 MEGA PIXELS

For action and sports photographers the D2Hs delivers a winning combination of speed, image quality and workflow efficiency. This camera is capable of shooting at 8 fps for up to 50 shots (JPEG) and features the latest advances of the ground-breaking D2X.

Nikon D2Xs

new

The D2Xs for professional photographers who want greater flexibility and control over their image workflow. The D2Xs combines the widely acclaimed 12.4 megapixel CMOS sensor and the outstanding speed and autofocus performance of its predecessor, with advanced image processing and a robust build to put it at the top of its class.

12.4 MEGA PIXELS

EISA BEST PRODUCT

Nikon D2X

For the D2X Nikon integrated its world-leading camera expertise with stunning advances in digital technologies to realize the only digital SLR camera truly equipped to meet the changing landscape of professional photography.

12.1 MEGA PIXELS

EISA BEST PRODUCT

D2Hs BODY ONLY	£1998 or £84 mth
D2Xs BODY ONLY	~~£2750~~ £2700 or £113 per mth
D2X BODY ONLY	£2499 or £105 mth

Wireless File Transmitters

WT-1 Wireless Transmitter

The Wireless transmitter attaches to the camera bottom and connects to the USB 2.0 port to realize wireless transfer of images directly to any IEEE 802.11b compatible access point without restricting movement.

Wireless Transmitter WT-1 £379.99

WT-2 Wireless Transmitter

Features include IEEE 802.11b/g support for faster speeds, broader support for network protocols, and greater security options. Another new feature that realizes extensive new picture taking potential is wireless Capture Control from a computer running Nikon Capture 4 (version 4.2 or higher)..

WT-2 Wireless Transmitter £599.99

Wireless Transmitter Accessories

Extended Range Antenna WA-E1	£129.99
Standard Antenna WA-S1	£44.99

AF LENSES

AF-S 300mm F4

£87 now | £779 in 9 months

AF-S 300/400/500/600mm

New Lightweight Model

AF DX 12-24mm

£71 | £638 in 9 months

AF 80-200mm F2.8D ED

£80 now | £719 in 9 months

AF DX Fisheye 10.5mm F2.8 ED	£465	or £20 mth	AF 85mm F2.8PC Micro shift	£1095	or £46 mth
AF 14mm F2.8 D	£1069	or £45 mth	AF-SVR 105mm F2.8 Micro NEW	£549	or £23 mth
AF 16mm F2.8 Fisheye	£545	or £23 mth	AF 200mm F4 IF ED Micro	£1049	or £44 mth
AF 18mm F2.8 D	£1145	or £48 mth	AF DX 12-24mm		
AF 20mm F2.8 D	£484	or £21 mth	(for digital cameras only)	£709	or £30 mth
AF 24mm F2.8 D	£324	or £14 mth	AF-S 17-35mm F2.8	£1144	or £48 mth
AF 28mm F1.4 D	£1399	or £59 mth	AF-S DX 17-55mm F2.8	£929	or £39 mth
AF 28mm F2.8 D	£189	or £8 mth	AF 18-35mm F3.5-4.5 D	£319	or £14 mth
AF 35mm F2 D	£215	or £9 mth	AF-S DX 18-55mm F3.5-5.6G IF ED	£169	or £8 mth
AF 50mm F1.4D	£212	or £9 mth	AF-S DX 18-70mm F3.5-4.5G	£199	or £9 mth
AF 50mm F1.8 D.	£96	or £8 mth	AF-S DX VR 18-200mm F3.5-5.6G	£489	or £21 mth
AF 85mm F1.4 D IF	£774	or £33 mth	AF 24-50mm F3.3-4.5 D	£325	or £14 mth
AF 85mm F1.8 D	£321	or £14 mth	AF 24-85mm F2.8-4 DIF	£435	or £19 mth
AF 105mm F2 D DC	£719	or £30 mth	AF-S VRG 24-120mm F3.5-5.6 IF ED	£415	or £18 mth
AF 135mm F2 D DC	£894	or £38 mth	AF-S 28-70mm F2.8 D	£1125	or £47 mth
AF 180mm F2.8 D IF ED	£559	or £24 mth	AF 28-100mm F3.5-5.6	£138	or £8 mth
AF-S VR 200mm F2	£2599	or £109 mth	AF 28-105mm F3.5-4.5 D OFFER	£249	or £13 mth
AF-S VR 300mm F2.8	£3199	or £134 mth	AF-DG 28-200mm F3.5-5.6 AF,DH	£179	or £8 mth
AF-S 300mm F4 IF ED	£865	or £37 mth	AF 35-70mm F2.8 D	£499	or £22 mth
AF-SII 300mm F2.8.	£2978	or £124 mth	AF 55-200mm F4-5.6 ED Black	£149	or £8 mth
AF-SII 400mm F2.8	£5965	or £250 mth	AF 70-200mm VR AFS-G2.8	£1185	or £50 mth
AF-SII 500mm F4	£4949	or £208 mth	AF 70-300mmF4-5.6G	£149	or £8 mth
AF-SII 600mm F4	£6275	or £264 mth	AF 80-200mm F2.8D ED+CL-43A	£799	or £34 mth
AF 60mm F2.8 DMicro	£350	or £15 mth	AF VR 80-400mm F4.5-5.6 DED	£999	or £42 mth
AF 70-180mm F4.5-5.6 D ED Micro.	£811	or £34 mth	AF-S VR 200-400mm F4 G IF-ED	£4299	or £180mth

2 NEW LENSES

- AF-S DX 18-135
- AS-S 70-300 VR

See website for Details

CONVERTERS

Nikon AF-STC-17EII	£289
Nikon AF-STC-14EII	£325
Nikon AF-STC-20EII	£279

EXTENSION TUBES

NIKON 8mm	£69
NIKON 14mm	£89
NIKON 27.7mm	£95

FLASHGUNS

TTL FLASH UNITS	
Nikon SB-23	£125
Nikon SB-22S	£129
Nikon SB27	£179
Nikon SB-800	£269
Nikon SB-600	£205

Nikon Wireless Speedlites/Kits	
Nikon SB-R200	£169.99
Nikon SB-R1	£379.99
Nikon SB-R1C1	£549.99

FILTERS

CIRCULAR POLARIZING	from £75.99	L1BC SKYLIGHT	from £30.99	ND8S NETRAL DENSITY	from £27.99	X1 GREEN	from £27.99
A12 AMBER	from £27.99	L37C UV	from £27.99	056 ORANGE	from £27.99	Y44 YELLOW	from £27.99
A2 AMBER	from £27.99	L39 UV	from £27.99	R60 RED	from £27.99	Y48 YELLOW	from £27.99
B12 BLUE	from £27.99	NC NEUTRAL COLOUR	from £21.99	SOFT NO.1	from £79.99	Y52 YELLOW	from £27.99
B2 BLUE	from £27.99	ND400 NETRAL DENSITY	from £27.99	SOFT NO.2	from £79.99	C-PL1L DROP-IN CIRCULAR	from £179.99
B8 BLUE	from £27.99	ND4S NEUTRAL DENSITY	from £27.99	X0 GREEN	from £27.99	C-PL2L DROP-IN CIRCULAR	from £199.99

KIRK 'L' Brackets for Nikon

Quick release brackets for either horizontal or vertical shots from £89.95

MEMORY

SanDisk Extreme III CompactFlash

1GB £39.99 2GB £82.99 4GB £164.99 8GB £299.99

SanDisk Extreme IV CompactFlash

2GB £115 + F/W READER £210 4GB £210 + F/W READER £260 8GB £410 F/W READER £59.99

SanDisk Ultra II CompactFlash

512MB £22.99 1GB £32.99 2GB £64.99 4GB £129.99 8GB £259.00

Kingston

Elite-Pro CompactFlash		CompactFlash Ultimate (new 180x)	
1GB	£28.49	1GB	£34.92
2GB	£50.00	2GB	£66.72
4GB	£107.83	4GB	£161.86

Compact Flash 1GB £23.32

C1 RAW WORKFLOW SOFTWARE

C1 PRO RAW V3.7 £299.00

EPSON P-4000 Mobile photo, movie and music player £349.00

Full range of Nikon accessories on our website

DIGITAL SLR ACCESSORIES

Nikon D50	CF-D50 £34.99	EN-EL3e £49.99	HL-EL3e £29.99	MH-18 £34.99	MH-19 £199.99	EH-5 £74.99	MSD70 £9.99	FSA-L1 £299.99	ML-L3 £14.99	AS-15 £18.99	DK-20 £3.99	DR-6 £199.99	DG-2 £77.99	MSV-01 £399.99	DK-5 £3.99	Nikon Capture NX £119.99
Nikon D80	CF-D80 £34.99	EN-EL3e £49.99	HL-EL3e £29.99	MH-18 £34.99	MH-19 £199.99	EH-5 £74.99	SC-28 £9.99	ML-L3 £14.99	MC-DC1 £29.99	BM-5 £6.99	AS-15 £18.99	FSA-L1 £299.99	DR-6 £199.99	DG-2 £77.99	Correction Lens £12.99	UC-E4 £15.99	EG-D100 £15.99
Nikon D200	EN-EL3e £49.99	MB-D200 £149.00	MS-D200 £19.99	EH-6 £74.99	MH-18A £34.99	MH-19 £199.99	CF-D200 £49.99	BM-6 £6.99	DK-21 £3.99	DK-21M £19.99	DG-2 £77.99	DK-7 £5.99	DR-6 £199.99	DK-5 £3.99	MC-35 £99.99	MC-36 £119.99	SC-28 £49.99
Nikon D2Hs	EN-EL4 £89.99	MH-21 £129.99	EH-6 £74.99	HL-EL4 £59.99	BL-1 £14.99	BL-2 £16.99	WT-1 SET £379.99	WT-2 £599.99	WA-E1 £129.99	WA-S1 £44.99	DG-2 £77.99	DR-5 £199.99	MC-30 £55.99	MSV-01 £399.99	Correction Lens £12.99	BM-3 £	SC-28 £49.99
Nikon D2x	EN-EL4 £89.99	MH-21 £129.99	EH-6 £74.99	HL-EL4 £59.99	BL-1 £14.99	BL-2 £16.99	WT-2 £599.99	WA-E1 £129.99	WA-S1 £44.99	B Focus Screen £24.99	E Focus Screen £19.99	V Focus Screen £29.99	DK-17A £19.99	Correction Lens £12.99	MC-35 £189.99	ML-3 £189.99	SC-28 £49.99
Nikon D2Xs	EN-EL4 £89.99	MH-21 £129.99	EH-6 £74.99	HL-EL4 £59.99	BL-1 £14.99	BL-2 £16.99	WT-2 £599.99	WA-E1 £129.99	WA-S1 £44.99	B Focus Screen £24.99	E Focus Screen £19.99	V Focus Screen £29.99	DK-17A £19.99	Correction Lenses £12.99	MC-35 £189.99	ML-3 £189.99	SC-28 £49.99

Canon DIGITAL SLR's

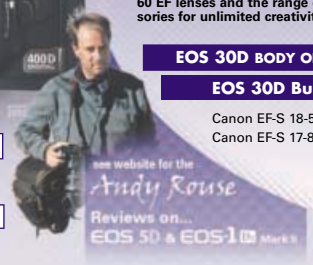
Canon EOS 400D

new

Featuring a 10.1 Mega pixel CMOS sensor, new EOS Intergrated cleaning system, larger and brighter 2.5" LCD and 9-point AF, the model is predicted to take the lead as the worlds most popular camera. It is positioned above the EOS 350D, currently the fastest selling SLR of all time.

E0S 400D now in stock

EOS 400D	**£470** or £20 mth
+EF-S 18-55mm kit	~~£517~~ £499 or £23 mth
EOS 350D Bundle...	**£619** or £26 mth
EOS 350D + EF-S 18-55mm + EF 55-200 + BG-E3 Grip	



Canon EOS 30D

plus FREE 512MB CF from Canon

8 MEGA PIXELS

Designed to inspire...
Built to last.

Realise your photographic vision with the EOS 30D. Speed and precision in a tough magnesium alloy body, with access to over 60 EF lenses and the range of EOS accessories for unlimited creativity.

EOS 30D BODY ONLY	**£742** or £31 mth
EOS 30D Bundles...	
Canon EF-S 18-55mm f3.5-5.6 DC	**£801** or £34 mth
Canon EF-S 17-85mm f4-5.6 IS USM	**£1054** or £44 mth

Always check our website for the latest prices

Canon EOS 5D

The full frame 12.8 Megapixel EOS 5D. Discreet enough to avoid attention, with resolution enough to keep the toughest picture editors happy. Travel light without compromise.

£200 CASHBACK

12.8 MEGA PIXELS

*Prices include Cashback

EOS 5D BODY ONLY	**£1549*** or £65 mth
EOS 5D Bundles...	
EF 24-105mm f4 L IS USM	**£2129*** or £89 mth

Canon EOS-1D Mark II N

8.2 MEGA PIXELS

For photographers.
By photographers.

The 8.2 MP EOS-1D Mark II N is the essential tool of sports & reportage photographers. With pack leading image quality at 8.5 frames per second and 48 frame JPEG burst performance.

EOS-1D Mark II N BODY ONLY	**£2249** or £94 mth

Canon EOS-1Ds Mark II

15.1 MEGA PIXELS

Resolution is just the beginning

EOS-1Ds Mark II. The Digital SLR that delivers the hair-splitting, super-fine detail of 50MB files. It has all the features and disaster-proof build quality expected from a professional EOS body.

EOS-1Ds Mark II BODY ONLY	**£4495** or £192 mth
EOS-1Ds Mark II Bundles...	
EF 16-35mm f2.8 L USM	**£5578** or £234 mth
EF 17-40mm f4 L USM	**£5122** or £214 mth
EF 24-70mm f2.8 L USM	**£5458** or £228 mth

Canon EF LENSES

EF85mm f1.2 L	£1199 or £50 mth	EF28-90mm f4-5.6 III	£105 or £8 mth	EF300mm f2.8 L Image Stabiliser	
EF85mm f1.2 L II USM NEW	£1449 or £50 mth	EF24-105mm f4 L IS	£681 or £29 mth		
EF85mm f1.8 U	£264 or £12 mth	EF28-105mm 'A' Range	£115 or £8 mth	£320 now £2879 in 9 months	
EF100mm f2.0	£310 or £13 mth	EF28-105mm USM 'A' Range	£147 or £8 mth	EF100-400mm LU Image Stabiliser	
EF100mm f2.8 U Macro	£375 or £16 mth	EF28-105mm f3.5-4.5UII	£184 or £8 mth		
EF135mm f2.0 L	£719 or £30 mth	EF28-135mm f3.5-5.6 Image Stab	£318 or £14 mth	£121 now £968 in 9 months	
EF135mm f2.8	£279 or £12 mth	EF28-200mm f3.5-5.6USM	£329 or £14 mth	EF300mm f4.0 LU Image Stabiliser	
EF180mm f3.5 L Macro	£1019 or £43 mth	EF28-300mm f3.5-5.6 L IS USM	£1569 or £66 mth		
EF200mm f2.8 LU/2	£519 or £22 mth	EF55-200mm f4.5-5.6 II USM	£179 or £8 mth	£93 now £831 in 9 months	
EF300mm f2.8 L Image Stab	£3099 or £130 mth	EF70-200mm f4.0L	£478 or £20 mth	EF400mm f5.6 LU	
EF300mm f4.0 LU Image Stab	£1079 or £45 mth	EF70-200mm f2.8LIS	£1295 or £54 mth		
EF400mm f2.8 LU/2 Image Stab	£5269 or £220 mth	EF70-300mm f4-5.6 IS USM	£369 or £16 mth	£87 now £787 in 9 months	
EF400mm f4 DOISU	£3849 or £164 mth	EF70-300mm f4.5-5.6 DO IS USM	£799 or £34 mth		
EF400mm f5.6 LU	£859 or £36 mth	EF75-300mm f4.0-5.6 U/3	£169 or £8 mth		
EF500mm f4.0 L Image Stab	£4359 or £184 mth	EF90-300mm	£129 or £8 mth		
EF600mm f4.0 L Image Stab	£5799 or £245 mth	EF90-300mm USM	£149 or £8 mth		
EF16-35mm f2.8 LUSM	£989 or £42 mth	EF100-400 Image Stab	£1079 or £45 mth		
EF-S10-22mm f3.5-4.5 USM - for 20D & 300D	£499 or £21 mth				
EF17-40mm f4.0 L USM	£533 or £23 mth				
EF17-55mm f2.8 IS USM NEW	£699 or £30 mth				
EF-S17-85mm f4.0-5.6 IS USM - for 20D & 300D	£399 or £17 mth				
EF20-35mm f3.5-4.5USM	£269 or £12 mth				
EF24-85mm f3.5-4.5U	£239 or £11 mth				
EF24-70mm f2.8L	£869 or £37 mth				

EF14mm f2.8 L	£1449 or £61 mth
EF15mm f2.8	£469 or £20 mth
EF20mm f2.8 U	£329 or £14 mth
EF24mm f1.4	£898 or £38 mth
EF24mm f2.8	£309 or £13 mth
EF28mm f1.8 U	£319 or £14 mth
EF28mm f2.8	£134 or £8 mth
EF35mm f1.4 L	£919 or £39 mth
EF35mm f2.0	£187 or £8 mth
EF50mm f1.4U	£239 or £10 mth
EF50mm f1.8	£73 or £8 mth
EF50mm f2.5 Macro	£196 or £9 mth
EF-S60mm f2.8 Macro	£277 or £12 mth
MP-E 65mm f2.8 1-5x Macro.	£714 or £30 mth

Canon CONVERTERS

Canon 12mm EXT TUBE	£69
Canon 25mm EXT TUBE	£109
Canon EF 1.4XII	£229
Canon EF 2XR	£229

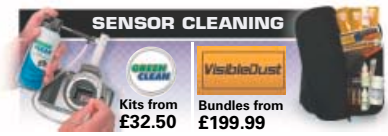
Canon Wireless File Transmitter WFT-E1A

This transmitter attaches to the bottom of the EOS-1Ds / 1Ds Mk II, the EOS-1D Mark II / II N, EOS 5D and the EOS 30D enabling the transfer of image data directly from the camera through a wireless or Ethernet-based LAN system to an FTP server.

Extended range antenna ERA-E1: Increases the range of the WFT-E1 transmitter to approximately 150m

Canon WFT-E1	£699
Canon WFT-E1 Antenna	£109
Canon BP-511A	£54.99
Canon CB-5L Charger for BP-511A	£39.99

SENSOR CLEANING



Kits from £32.50

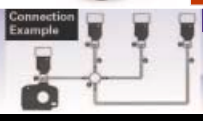
Bundles from £199.99

Canon FILTERS

		Regular	from £20.99
		ND 4L Neutral Density x4	from £25.99
		ND 8L Neutral Density x8	from £25.99
UV	from £12.49	Circular Polarising	from £79.99
Skylight	from £12.49	Softmat 1 soft focus	from £60.99

Canon FLASHGUNS

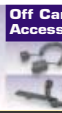
Canon 220EX	£113
Canon 430 EX Speedlite	£169
Canon 580 EX Speedlite	£289
Canon MR14 EX Macrolite	£329
Canon MT-24 EX Macro Twin Lite Flash	£589



Canon MULTIPLE FLASH SETUP

1.TTL Hot Shoe Adaptor 3	£55.95	4.Connection cord 0.6m	£38.95
2.TTL Distributor	£39.95	5.Connection cord 3m	£40.95
3.Off-camera Shoe Adaptor	£19.95		

Off Camera Flash Accessories



Off Camera Shoe Cord 2	£40.50
L Bracket SB-E1	£119.99

Canon DIGITAL SLR ACCESSORIES

EOS 350D														
	NB-2LH	EH-18L	BG-E3	NB-2LH	CB-2LWE	CBC-NB2	RS-60E3	RC-1	Angle finder C	EP-EX15	ACK D20	VC 100	CUP EF
	£45.00	£34.99	£119.99	£45.00	£39.00	£69.99	£23.99	£17.99	£149.99	£17.49	£45.00	£12.00	£6.90

EOS 30D															
	BP 511A	CB-5L	CA-PS400	CG-570	BG-E2	BGM-E2	CR-560	CSEH-17L	RS-80N3	TC-80N3	VC 100	LC-5	Angle finder C	EP-EX15	WFT-E1	ERA-E1
	£54.99	£39.99	£89.99	£35.00	£149.99	£15.99	£89.99	£29.99	£39.99	£99.99	£12.00	£329.99	£149.99	£17.49	£699.00	£109.00

EOS 5D												
	BP-511	CB-5L	BG-E4	Ee-A	Ee-D	Ee-S	CR-560	RS-80N3	TC-80N3	Angle finder C	WFT-E1	ERA-E1	VC 100
	£54.99	£39.99	£169.99	£25.99	£25.99	£25.99	£89.99	£39.99	£99.99	£149.9	£699.00	£109.00	£12.00

EOS-1D Mark II N																	
	NP-E3 Ni-MH	HP-E3	NC-E2	DC-E1	WFT-E1	ERA-E1	DVK-E2	IFC-200D44	IFC-450D44	IFC-450D6	L5	Angle finder C	VC 100	RS-80N3	TC-80N3	Focusing Screens	Dioptre Lenses
	£99.99	£69.99	£249.99	£79.99	£699.00	£109.00	£699.99	£39.99	£49.99	£49.99	£19.99	£149.99	£12.00	£39.99	£99.99	from £25.91	from £8.58

EOS-1D Mark II																	
	NP-E3 Ni-MH	HP-E3	NC-E2	DC-E1	WFT-E1	ERA-E1	DVK-E2	IFC-200D44	IFC-450D44	L5	Angle finder C	VC 100	RS-80N3	TC-80N3	Focusing Screens	Dioptre Lenses
	£99.99	£69.99	£249.99	£79.99	£699.00	£109.00	£699.99	£39.99	£49.99	£19.99	£149.99	£12.00	£39.99	£99.99	from £25.91	from £8.58

JOBY gorillapodSLR

Get the perfect picture!

The Joby Gorillapod firmly secures your camera to just about anything... anywhere and everywhere

new

£39.99

All prices include VAT at standard rate of 17.5% • Delivery charges: £7.95 for next day delivery, orders below £100 or 500 gms weight delivered for just £3.99 • Deliveries on Saturdays, or to Northern Ireland, Scotland & Channel Islands are subject to extra charges. • 24 hour delivery not applicable to cheque payments. E. & O.E. Prices subject to change. Goods subject to availability. • We do not send goods on approval except by prior arrangement • No Deposit Credit Example: Goods £150 or £8 – £11 minimum monthly payment T.C.P £194.64 APR 29.8% (Direct Debit) Written details on request E. & O.E. and are subject to status • Postal Address: Warehouseexpress.com, 13 Frensham Road, Sweet Briar Road Industrial Estate, Norwich. Norfolk. NR3 2BT.

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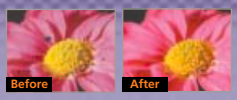
α DSLR-A100

It's the new symbol for picture quality.

- 10 Megapixel CCD
- Anti-Dust technology



- Compatible with A-mount lenses
- The only SLR with Sony's Dynamic Range Optimizer (DRO) technology
- High-sensitivity shooting with Super SteadyShot in-camera image stabilization
- Eye-Start Autofocus system for faster camera response.

NEW LOWER PRICES

Sony α DSLR-A100	Sony α DSLR-A100 Kit 1	Sony α DSLR-A100 Kit 2
Body Only	plus 18-70mm	18-70mm plus 75-300mm
£495 or £21 mth	£546 or £24 mth	£729 or £31 mth

MAMIYA ZD SLR

- The first integrated medium format digital SLR camera
- 22 mega pixel CCD imaging sensor (total 4008 x 5344)
- 36mm x 48mm Dalsa CCD image sensor is 2 times the size of full 35mm D-SLR Mamiya
- 645AF lens mount
- Frame capture rate of 1.5 fps

22 MEGA PIXELS

ZD SLR Body Only £8000 or £324 mth

PENTAX K100D

new

- Ideal entry level DSLR
- Advanced user-friendly features
- High-definition 6.1 effective megapixels
- Shake reduction system
- 11 point SATOX YII autofocus
- Compact design with metal chasis
- Large Hi-resoloution 2.5" LCD screen
- Ergonomic soft grip

6.1 MEGA PIXELS

SAVE £64

K100D BODY + 18-55mm F3.5-5.6 £485.99 or £21 mth

OLYMPUS E-500

Leaves other DSLR's in the dust...

- 8.0 million pixels with Full Frame Transfer CCD
- 6.4cm/2.5" HyperCrystal LCD
- 49 area AE sensor & high light basis,
- shadow light basis spot metering

8 MEGA PIXELS

e-SYSTEM

Supersonic Wave Filter for dust protection

E-500 £479 or £20 mth

E-500 Bundles...

14-45mm	£499 or £21 mth
14-45mm + 40-150mm	£526 or £22 mth

OLYMPUS E-330

The worlds first dual mode live preview DSLR

The Olympus E-330 is the world's first* digital SLR camera to feature continuous live views directly on the LCD. Enabling the framing of compositions without the need to look through the ocular, it allows digital SLR photographers to see what's going on around them while they shoot, significantly enhancing flexibility

Supersonic Wave Filter for dust protection

Multi-angle 6.4cm/2.5" Hyper Crystal LCD

7.5 MEGA PIXELS

E-330 SPECIAL OFFER ~~£799~~ £658 or £34 mth

E-330 SPECIAL OFFER Bundles...

14-45mm	~~£879~~ £689 or £37mth

SAMSUNG GX -1L

Great value for this digital SLR all-rounder

The GX-1L digital SLR combines fantastic ease of use with state-of-the-art optical and digital technologies. This well specified model offers brilliant image quality and easy operation, allowing photographers to focus on what's really important - great pictures.

6 MEGA PIXELS

GREAT VALUE!

Twin Lens DSLR Kit...

GX-1L + 18-55mm + 55-200mm	£399

SIGMA LENSES

70-200mm f2.8 EX DG Macro — HSM EX APO

Large aperture zoom lens designed specially for digital SLR cameras with close-up capability

£679.99

17-70mm F2.8-4.5 DC MACRO — ASP. IF

An ideal large aperture standard zoom lens for digital SLR cameras

£237.99

MACRO 70mm F2.8 EX DG — EX

Ideal for taking pictures in all situations from infinity to 1:1 macro, both with natural light conditions or flash.

COMING SOON

8mm F4 EX DG NEW	£514.99	or £22 mth
14mm F2.8 EX	£532.99	or £23 mth
15mm F2.8 Fisheye	£299.99	or £13 mth
15mm F2.8 Fisheye DG NEW	£389.99	or £17 mth
20mm F1.8 EX DG	£289.99	or £13 mth
24mm F1.8 EX DG	£249.99	or £9 mth
28mm F1.8 EX DG	£209.99	or £8 mth
30mm F1.4 EX DC HSM NEW	£274.99	or £12 mth
50mm F2.8 EX DG Macro	£192.99	or £8 mth
70mm F2.8 EX DG Macro NEW	£309.99	or £13 mth
105mm F2.8 EX DG Macro NEW	£278.99	or £12 mth
150mm F2.8 EX DG APO Macro NEW	£424.99	or £18 mth
180mm F3.5 EX DG NEW MODEL	£464.99	or £19 mth
300mm F2.8 APO EX REDUCED	£1499.99	or £64 mth
300mm F2.8 EX DGNEW MODEL	£1524.99	or £65 mth
500mm F4.5 EX DG NEW MODEL	£2524.99	or £106mth
800mm F5.6 APO EX DG NEW MODEL	£3794.99	or £160 mth
10-20mm F4-5.6 EX DC HSM NEW	£318.99	or £14 mth
12-24mm EXDGF3.5-4.5	£434.99	or £19 mth
15-30mm EXDGF3.5-4.5	£258.99	or £11 mth
17-35mm F4-5.6 Aspherical	£249.99	or £11 mth
17-35mm F2.8-4 EX DG Aspherical	£299.99	or £13 mth
17-70mm F2.8-4.5 DC MACRO NEW	£237.99	or £10 mth
18-50mm F3.5-5.6	£78.99	or £8 mth
18-50mm F2.8 EX DC NEW	£269.99	or £12 mth
18-125mm F3.5-5.6 DC NEW MODEL	£184.99	or £8 mth
18-200mm F3.5-6.3 DC NEW	£238.99	or £10 mth
20-40mm F2.8 EX DG SPECIAL OFFER	£248.99	or £11 mth
24-60mm F2.8 EX DG	£269.99	or £13 mth
24-70mm F2.8 EX DG Macro	£278.99	or £12 mth
24-135mm F2.8-4.5	£238.99	or £10 mth
28-70mm F2.8-4	£78.99	or £8 mth
28-70mm F2.8 EX DG NEW	£214.99	or £9 mth
28-135mm F3.8-5.6 IF	£99.95	or £8 mth
28-200mm F3.5-5.6 DG NEW	£169.99	or £8 mth
28-300mm F3.5-6.3 Macro	£169.99	or £8 mth
28-300mm F3.5-6.3 DG Macro NEW MODEL	£178.99	or £8 mth
50-150mm F2.8 EXDC NEW IN STOCK	£499.99	or £21 mth
50-500mm F4-6.3 EX DG NEW MODEL	£718.99	or £30 mth
55-200mm F4-5.6 DC	£94.99	or £8 mth
70-200mm F2.8 EX DG	£595.99	or £25 mth
70-200mm F2.8 EX DG MACRO NEW	£679.99	or £29 mth
70-300mm F4-5.6 Macro DG NEW MODEL	£98.99	or £8 mth
70-300mm F4-5.6 APO Macro DG NEW MODEL	£158.99	or £8 mth
80-400mm F4-5.6 EX OS DG NEW MODEL	£829.99	or £35 mth
100-300mm F4 EX IF DG NEW MODEL	£749.99	or £32 mth
120-300mm F2.8 APO EX IF HSM DG NEW	£1669.99	or £70 mth
135-400mm F4.5-5.6 APO DG NEW	£428.99	or £18 mth
170-500mm F5.6-6.3 APO DG NEW	£528.99	or £22 mth
300-800mm F5.6 EX DG APO SHM NEW	£4179.99	or £176mth
1.4x EX DG convertor	£138.99	or £8 mth
2x EX DG convertor	£168.99	or £8 mth

TAMRON LENSES

AF 11-18mm F4-5.6 Di-II AS IF LD NEW	£367.99	or £16 mth
AF 17-35mm F2.8-4 IF Di	£327.99	or £14 mth
AF 17-50mm F2.8 XR Di II LD Aspherical (IF) NEW	£299.99	or £13 mth
AF 18-200mm F3.5-6.3 NEW MODEL	£259.99	or £11 mth
AF 24-135mm F3.5-5.6	£319.99	or £14 mth
AF 28-75mm F2.8 XR Di	£249.99	or £11 mth
AF 28-105mm F4-5.6	£119.99	or £8 mth
AF 28-200mm F3.8-5.6 XR Di Aspherical (IF) Macro	£209.99	or £9 mth
AF 28-200mm XR (IF) Macro 1:4	£149.99	or £8 mth
AF 28-300mm XR Di LD Aspherical Macro IF f3.5-6.3	£208.99	or £9 mth
AF 55-200mm f4-5.6 Di II LD Macro NEW SPECIAL OFFER	£89.99	or £8 mth
AF 70-300mm F4-5.6 Di LD Macro 1:2 NEW	£124.99	or £8 mth
AF 200-500mm F5-6.3 Di LD	£668.99	or £29 mth
AF 14mm F2.8	£799.99	or £34 mth
AF 90mm Di Macro	£278.99	or £12 mth
AF 180mm F3.5 Di Macro	£538.99	or £23 mth
AFSP 300mm F2.8 Aspherical (IF)	£1999.99	or £84 mth

AF 28-200mm f3.8-5.6 XR Di ASP IF Macro — LD Di-II

£209.99

AF 70-300mm f4-5.6 Di LD Macro 1:2 — LD DI

£124.99

AF SP 17-50mm f2.8 XR Di-II LD ASP IF — IF ASL LD XR Di-II

£299.99

AF 55-200mm f4-5.6 Di II LD Macro — LD Di-II

£89.99

OLYMPUS LENSES

Olympus ZUIKO 7-14mm F4	£1199.00	or £50 mth
Olympus ZUIKO 11-22mm F2.8-3.5	£559.00	or £24 mth
Olympus ZUIKO 14-45mm f3.5-5.6	£164.00	or £8 mth
Olympus ZUIKO 14-54mm F2.8-3.5	£449.00	or £19 mth
Olympus ZUIKO 40-150mm f3.5-4.5	£189.00	or £8 mth
Olympus ZUIKO 50-200mm F2.8-3.5	£699.00	or £30 mth
Olympus ZUIKO 150mm F2.0	£1949.00	or £82 mth
Olympus ZUIKO 50mm F2.0 macro	£354.00	or £15 mth
Olympus ZUIKO 300mm F2.8	£4795.00	or £200mth
Olympus EC-14 tele converter	£324.00	or £14 mth
Olympus EX-25 extension tube	£99.00	or £8 mth

PENTAX LENSES

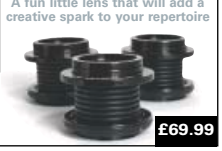
SMC 14mm f2.8 DA ED IF	£599.00	or £25 mth
SMC 40mm f2.8 DA	£219.00	or £10 mth
SMC 12-24mm f4.8 DA	£629.00	or £27 mth
SMC 16-45mm f4 DA ED AL	£309.00	or £13 mth
SMC 18-55mm f3.5 - 5.6 DA AL	£179.00	or £8 mth
SMC 50-200mm f4 - 5.6 DA ED	£169.00	or £8 mth
SMC 50mm f2.8 D FA Macro	£349.00	or £15 mth
SMC 100mm f2.8 D FA Macro	£399.00	or £17 mth

Lensbabies

A fun little lens that will add a creative spark to your repertoire

NEW Macro Set £23.50

Lensbabies II now here £109.00 - *see website*



£69.99

FLASHGUNS

Metz Professional Flashguns

Standard synch. cables	from £7.05
Coiled synch. cables	from £11.16

Technical Advice also available at support www.intro2020.co.uk

STO-FEN PRODUCTS — See website for details

20 C-2	28 CS-2	28 AF-3	34 CS-2 Digital
£30	£92	£92	£112
36 AF-4	**44 AF-4**	**44 MZ-2**	**54 AF-1**
£68	£143	£143	£179
54 MZ-4(i)	**45 CL-4 Digital**	**60 CT-1**	**76 MZ-5 Digital**
£296	£333	£396	£499

BATTERIES & POWER

ANSMANN AA Ni-Mh BATTERIES & CHARGERS

Digispeed 4 ULTRA	£59.95	Energy 4	£49.95
Digispeed 4	£49.95	Energy 8	£49.95
DigiCharger Plus	£39.95	Energy 16	£84.95
Photocam III	£16.95	4xAA NiMh Batts 2600mah	£14.99

ANSMANN AA Ni-Mh BATTERIES & CHARGERS

Hahnel HL-1LH (Canon)	£19.99	Hahnel HL-200 (Minolta	£24.99
Hahnel HL-2LHP (Canon)	£24.99	Hahnel HL-EL1 (Nikon)	£24.99
Hahnel HL-5L (Canon)	£19.99	Hahel HL-EL4 (Nikon)	£59.99
Hahnel HL-511 (Canon)	£24.99	Hahnel HL-10B (Olympus)	£19.99
Hahnel HL-20 (Casio)	£24.99	Hahnel HL-60 (Pentax)	£19.99
Hahnel HL-80 (Fuji)	£19.99	Hahnel HL-S1974 (Samsung)	£29.99
Hahnel HL-60 (Fuji)	£19.99		
Hahnel HL-F95 (Fuji)	£19.99	**Powerstation Rechargables**	
Hahnel HL-B4 (Konica)	£24.99		
Hahnel HL-900 (Kyocera)	£29.99	Ultima	£29.99
Hahnel HL-LC1 (Leica)	£24.99	Rechargeable CRV-3	£29.99

Lenspod

£14.95 See Website

LensCoat

available in:

Forest Green Camo, Max 4 Camo, Real Tree Hardwood Snow Canon, Black & Canon White -

for Canon, Nikon & Sigma

from £55 See Web

Visit our website for more filters and lenses

FOR MORE COMPACT CAMERAS visit us online - www.warehouseexpress.com

CANON PowerShot, Ixus and Selphy Photo Printer

Canon

MODELS JUST ANNOUNCED: Please see website for latest prices

Ixus 850 IS £264 | i7 Zoom £249 | Ixus 900Ti £339

Powershot G7 £326 | A640 £222 | A630 £193

BEST SELLER

6m 12x 36-432mm

POWERSHOT S3 IS £299 or £13 mth

BEST SELLER

6m 4x 35-140mm

IXUS 800 IS £259 or £11 mth

***SPECIAL OFFER £219 w/printer**

*Selphy CP720 Printer r.r.p. £99

4m 3x 38-114mm

IXUS 60 £169 or £8 mth + Printer £219 or £10mth

6m mega pixel | wp waterproof | 12x optical zoom | 36-432mm zoom

IXUS WIRELESS £189 ~~£249~~ or £11

5m 3x 35-105mm

IXUS 65 £215 or £9 mth

6m 3x 35-105mm

gorillapod

new

Tripod for Digital Compacts only £19.99

POWERSHOT A540 £165 or £8 mth

6m 4x 35-140mm

IXUS i-zoom £169 or £8 mth

cranberry | ultra violet | sahara | jet

5m 2.4x 38-90mm

POWERSHOT A620 £199 or £9 mth

6m 4x 35-140mm

POWERSHOT A530 £109

5m 4x 35-140mm

POWERSHOT A430 £95

4m 4x 39-156mm

LEICA C-LUX1

Spare Battery £48

Leather Case (Black) £32

6m 3x 35-105mm

C-LUX 1 £359 or £15 mth

SONY Cyber-Shot

SONY

DSC-S600		£119
DSC-W30	~~£145~~	£129
DSC-W70 Silver		£164
DSC-W70 Black with FREE case		£164
DSC-T5		£219
DSC-H2	~~£249~~	£239
DSC-N1		£289

NEW MODEL

Super SteadyShot® system to reduce blur on your shots

7.2m 3x 38-114mm

CYBERSHOT DSCT30 £240 or £10mth

CYBERSHOT DSC T50 £255 or £10 mth

7.2m 3x 38-114mm new

CYBERSHOT W100 ~~£219~~ £200 or £10mth

8m 3x 38-114mm

CYBERSHOT DSC-N2 £255 or £10mth

7.2m 3x 38-114mm new

CYBERSHOT DSC-W50 £169 or £8mth

6m 3x 38-116mm

SPECIAL OFFER **

**FREE carry case with black camera (n.b. silver shown)

7m 3x 38-116mm

DSC-W70 black ~~£179~~ £164 or £9mth

OLYMPUS µ[mju] Digital

OLYMPUS

NEW FE-170		£95
NEW FE 180		£119
FE-200		£169
SP-510		£219
MJU-740		£219
MJU-750		£249
NEW MJU-1000		£259
MJU-725SW		£259

FE 200 £169 or £8 mth

new 5x 6m 38-114mm

µ[mju] -1000 SW £259 or £11mth

new 3x 10m 38-114mm

SP 310 £149 SPECIAL OFFER

10x 7.1m 37-111mm

µ[mju]-725 SW £259 or £11 mth

new 3x 7.1m 38-106mm

RICOH Capilo

RICOH

Caplio RR630	£109
Caplio GX8	£248
Caplio R30	£199
Caplio R5	£279

CAPLIO GR £399 or £17mth

8m 4x 28-159mm

CAPLIO R4 £191 ~~£249~~ or £11mth

5m 7.1x 28-200mm

FUJIFILM FinePix

FUJIFILM

FinePix A400		£89
FinePix A600	~~£139~~	£102
FinePix F10		£149
NEW FinePix F30		£259
FinePix V10		£169

FINEPIX S9500 £329 or £14mth

9m 10.7x 28-300mm

FINEPIX S5600 £179 or £9mth

5m 3x 38-114mm

FINEPIX F30 £229

new 6m 3x 36-108mm

FINEPIX A500 £100

9m 3x 38-116mm

SAMSUNG L, Pro and DigiMax

SAMSUNG

NV7		£259
NV10	~~£245~~	£226
NV3	~~£179~~	£173
DigiMax A55W		£159
DigiMax i6	~~£169~~	£144

Pro815 £449 or £19mth

4m 4x 28-420mm

L85 £249 or £11mth

4m 5x 39-190mm

SANDISK Memory Cards, Memory Sticks and Readers

SanDisk

MEMORY CARDS from £11.99

CompactFlash USB

256MB	£12.99
512MB	£14.99
1GB	£26.99
2GB	£51.99
4GB	£104.99

SanDisk ultra II

ULTRA II CompactFlash

512MB	£22.99
1GB	£32.99
2GB	£64.99
4GB	£129.99
8GB	£259.00

Secure Digital SD

256MB	£11.99
512MB	£13.99
1GB	£24.99
2GB	£47.99

ULTRA II SD

512MB	£18.99
1GB	£30.99
2GB	£59.99

SanDisk Extreme III

CompactFlash

1GB	£39.99
2GB	£82.99
4GB	£164.99
8GB	£299.99

Secure Digital SD

1GB	£39.99
2GB	£75.99

SanDisk Extreme IV new

Compact Flash

2GB	£115
4GB	£210
8GB	£410

MEMORY STICKS from £19.99

Memory Stick Pro	
2GB	£59.99
Memory Stick Pro Duo	
512MB	£19.99
1GB	£32.99
2GB	£59.99
Ultra II Memory Stick Pro	
512MB	£24.99
1GB	£47.99
2GB	£94.99
4GB	£179.99
Ultra II Memory Stick Pro Duo	
512MB	£24.99
1GB	£39.99
2GB	£72.99
Extreme III MS Pro Duo	
1GB	£49.99
2GB	£99.99

MEMORY READERS/ADAPTERS from £11.99

Mutli Card Readers USB 2.0	
5-in-1	£14.99
12-in-1	£24.99
Dazzle 990 Camera/Phone Manager	£49.99
Single Card Readers USB 2.0	
CF	£14.99
Memory Stick	£11.99
SD/USB Adapter	
512MB	£18.99
1GB	£36.99

This card transforms from an SD Card to a USB adapter with the unique hinged cover

LEXAR Memory Cards, Memory Sticks and Readers

Lexar

MEMORY CARDS from £9.99

Compact Flash 40x USB

256MB	£19.99
1GB	£49.99

Compact Flash 80x USB

512MB	£29.99
4GB	£199.99

Professional 133x Compact Flash

1GB	£59.99
2GB	£99.99
4GB	£179.99

Secure Digital SD

64MB	£9.99
128MB	£10.99
256MB	£15.99
512MB	£27.99
1GB	£44.99

Secure Digital SD 40x

256MB	£24.99
512MB	£34.99
1GB	£49.99

Professional 133x SD

1GB	£55.99
2GB	£99.99

MEMORY STICKS

Memory Stick Pro

256MB	£34.99
512MB	£54.99
1GB	£99.99

MEMORY READERS

Mutli Card Readers USB 2.0

Multi Card Reader £24.99

Single Card Readers USB 2.0

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FIREWIRE READERS

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KINGSTON Memory Cards

Kingston TECHNOLOGY

- Outstanding value **1GB** from only **£23.32**

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1GB	£23.32

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1GB	£28.49
2GB	£50.00
4GB	£107.83

Compact Flash Ultimate

1GB	£34.92
2GB	£66.72
4GB	£161.86

Secure Digital SD

1GB	£22.70
2GB	£43.19

Elite-Pro Secure Digital

1GB	£25.72
2GB	£50.96

Secure Digital Ultimate

1GB	£30.21
2GB	£72.59

All prices include VAT at standard rate of 17.5% • Delivery charges: £7.95 for next day delivery, orders below £100 or 500gms weight delivered for just £3.99 • Deliveries on Saturdays, or to Northern Ireland, Scotland & Channel Islands are subject to extra charges. 24 hour delivery not applicable to cheque payments. E. & O.E. Prices subject to change. Goods subject to availability. • We do not send goods on approval except by prior arrangement • No Deposit Credit Example: Goods £150 or £8 – £11 minimum monthly payment T.C.P £194.64 APR 29.8% (Direct Debit) Written details on request E. & O.E. and are subject to status • Postal Address: Warehouseexpress.com, 13 Frensham Road, Sweet Briar Road Industrial Estate, Norwich. Norfolk. NR3 2BT.

the digital camera company

Canon

EOS 5D body

12.8 megapixels
3 fps 60 JPEG image burst
2.5" TFT LCD

The full frame 12.8 Megapixel EOS 5D. Discreet enough to avoid attention, with resolution enough to keep the toughest picture editors happy. Lens not included.

Price £1,793.00

EOS 30D 18-55mm lens kit

8 megapixels
18-55mm lens included
2.5" TFT LCD

The Canon EOS 30D is the 8 megapixel semi-professional digital SLR, delivering the speed, precision and flexibility synonymous with high-end film SLR cameras.

Price £828.00

Nikon

Nikon D200 18-70mm lens kit

10.2 megapixels
18-70mm lens included
New standards in image quality

The D200 has a winning combination of quality, performance, construction and advanced system features. Employing a newly developed 10.2 megapixel CCD.

Price £1,299.00

Nikon S4

6 megapixels
10x optical
2.5" TFT LCD

The Nikon S4 with its slim, compact design and 6 megapixels integrates its broad 10x zoom range in a swivel design to offer a wide range of shooting angles.

Price £243.90

FUJIFILM

Finepix F10

6.3 megapixels
3.0x optical
2.5" TFT LCD

The F10 zoom, with a 500-shot battery life and an incredible sensitivity range that stretches from ISO 80 to 1600, is a camera to be used at any time of the day or night.

Price £143.00

Canon

Digital Ixus Wireless

5.0 megapixels
3x optical
2.0" LCD

The compact Digital IXUS Wireless offers hassle-free wireless communications for printing and transferring images from any room in the house.

Price £199.90

Canon

Selphy CP510

300 x 300 DPI
Photo lab 4"x6" in 60 sec
PictBridge compatible

Treasure your family's memories as glossy, durable photos from the Selphy CP510. Get immediate prints direct from your digital camera via the clever retractable USB cable.

Price £49.00

Pixma iX5000

4800 x 1200 DPI
A3+ in 166 sec
PictBridge compatible

This advanced A3+ printer provides high speed, high-quality output for your documents and graphics. Print A3+ size borderless photos direct from digital cameras.

Price £227.00

SAMSUNG

L50 Silver

5.0 megapixels
3x optical
2.5" LCD

You can use the Samsung Digimax L50 5.0 megapixel camera to produce great images and take detailed photos for printing up to poster size.

Price £114.00

Digimax L85

8.1 megapixels
5x optical
TV quality movies

Samsung Digimax L85 is the only camera in the world that is HDTV (cradle required); with 8.1 megapixel CCD, it provides you with an amazing photo experience.

Price £199.00

Panasonic

Lumix DMC-LZ3

5.0 megapixels
6x optical
2" TFT LCD

The Panasonic Lumix DMCLZ3B, with its compact size and optical stabilisation, delivers where needed, capturing easily obtainable sharp images.

Price £141.00

Lumix DMC-TZ1 Silver

5.0 megapixels
10x stabilized optical
2.5" LCD

The DMC-TZ1 also features the ultra compact size 10x zoom and optical stabilisation, as well as a large 2.5" LCD screen to examine pictures in living detail.

Price £229.99

www.digital-cameras.com

VISA MasterCard 0% credit available

Sales hotline: 0870 224 7813

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Need more space for your digital life?

Whatever your storage needs, Seagate has the perfect drive for you.

Compact flash

SanDisk

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- 3 x optical zoom lens
- Picture Stabilization mode
- Up to ISO 3200

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SRP £249.99

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- 2.5" LCD screen
- 7.1 x optical zoom
- Slim, lightweight design

Our Price £134.99

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Available in Black or Silver

NEW!

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- 2.5" LCD screen
- 7.1 x optical zoom
- Slim, lightweight design

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Zuiko ED 7-14mm f/4.0	£1149.00*
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Zuiko 14-45mm f/3.5-5.6	£150.00
Zuiko 14-54mm f/2.8-3.5	£439.00
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718B	£65
115	£25
029	£65
484 RC2	£39
488 RC2	£64
322 RC2	£89
329 RC4	£89
222	£69
141 RC	£49
460 MG	£49
229	£139
701 RC Video	£76
128 RC	£59
410	£133
405	£275

RICOH

GR Digital	£379
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49mm	£7	£21	£22	£52	N/A	N/A
52mm	£8	£22	£22	£55	£22	N/A
55mm	£9	£23	£24	£59	£23	N/A
58mm	£11	£25	£28	£61	£25	£61
62mm	£14	£28	£37	£69	£28	£69
67mm	£17	£32	£43	£76	£32	£76
72mm	£21	£36	£43	£97	£36	£97
77mm	£25	£39	£52	£115	£39	£115
82mm	£36	£45	£69	£154	£45	£154
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SRP £129.99

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† you save £20 when bought with any Camera over £99.99!!

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Epson Stylus Photo R340	£122.99*
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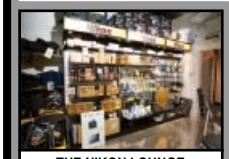

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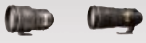

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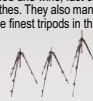

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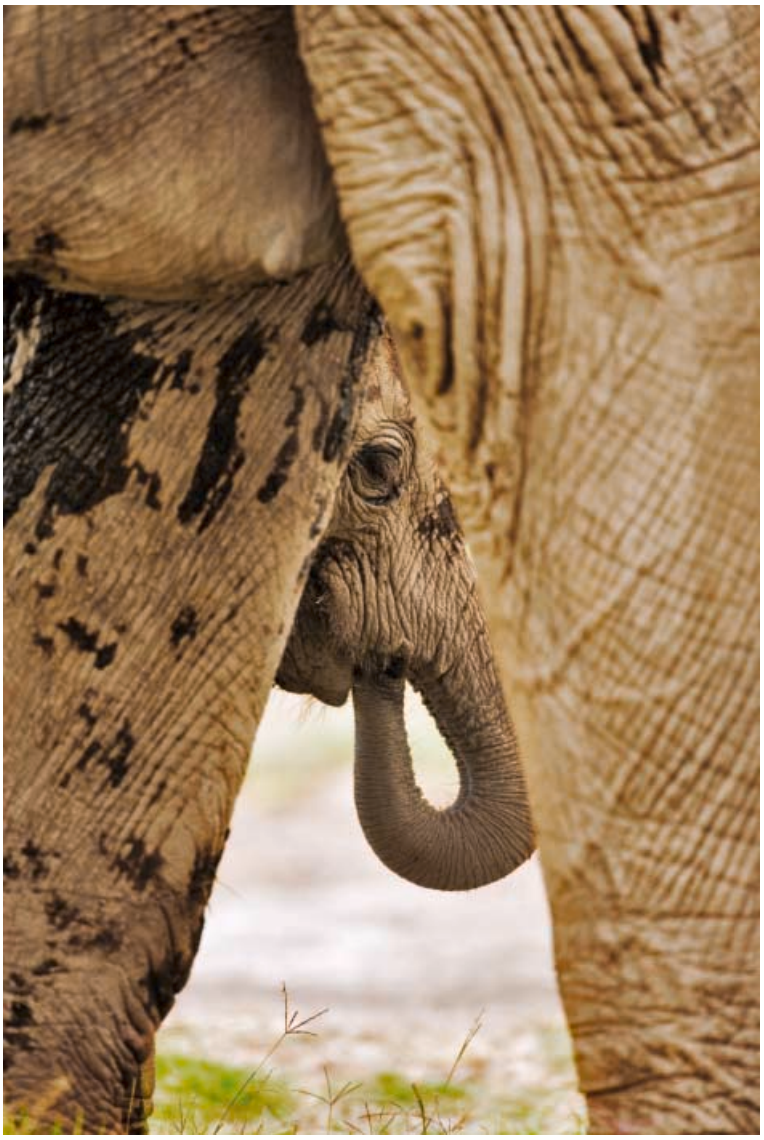

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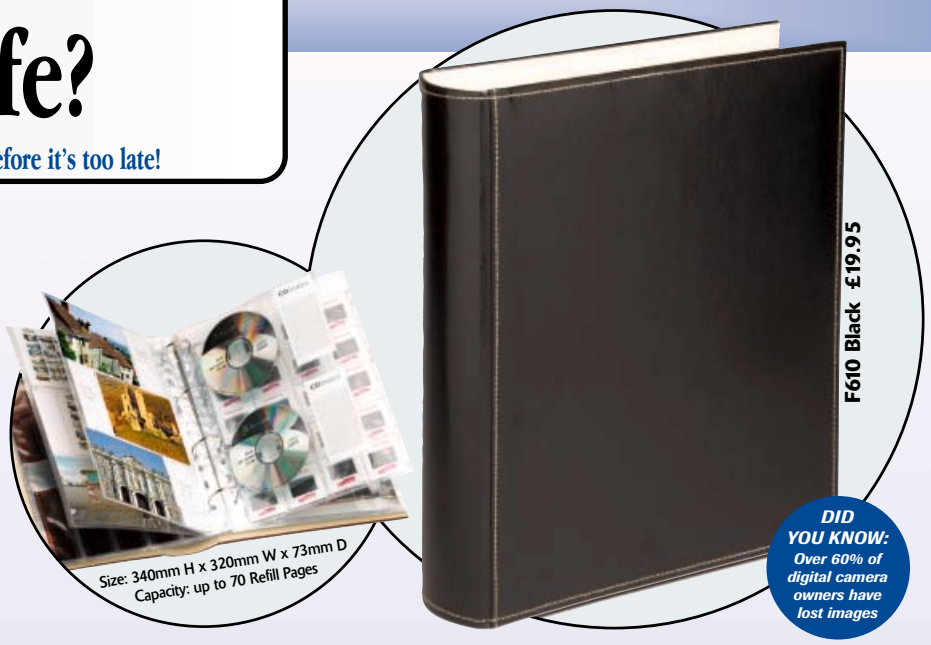
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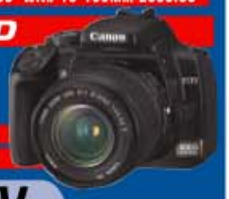

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SanDisk

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Sony Memory Stick

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2GB PRO	58.90
512 MB PRO DUO	21.90
1GB PRO DUO	33.90
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Kingston

Compact Flash

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512MB	8.90
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OLYMPUS

Olympus xD

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If it isn't here it's either not good enough, discontinued (though it may still be available from some dealers) or too new to have been tested yet. (It can sometimes take a few weeks for a test to appear, depending on space, publishing schedules, and when we get the sample.) Products are judged by how well they serve their market. Those that score 85% or more in our tests are awarded the coveted WDC Choice rosette. With many more accessories available than we have the space for, we concentrate on the best-quality products from the most respected brands in their field. All have been chosen and tested with the enthusiast in mind. The Buyers' Guide should help you choose the right product for you. But for more information, why not read the full test report first? A pdf or reprint of every camera test, including the full specs and ratings, can be emailed or faxed to you for just £3.00 by calling 01707 273 773 or visiting our website.

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Using This Guide

UP TO £200 | £200 - £300 | £300 - £600 | £600 - £7000

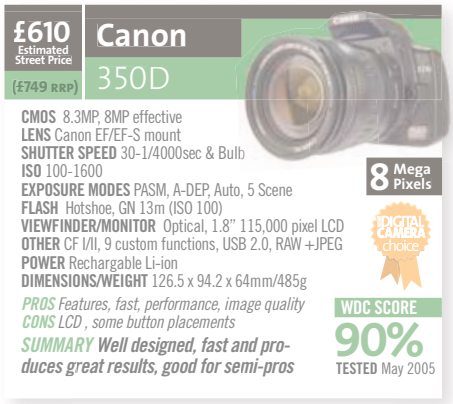
STREET PRICE
Estimated street price at time of press. (Prices may vary)

RRP
The price at launch. Test rating based on this price

SPECIFICATION LIST
The key features you should check when comparing models

EXPOSURE MODES
P= Program, A = Aperture priority, S= Shutter priority, M = Manual

SUMMARY
A precis of our test verdict


£610
Estimated Street Price
(£749 RRP)
Canon
350D
CMOS 8.3MP, 8MP effective
LENS Canon EF/EF-S mount
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/4000sec & Bulb
ISO 100-1600
EXPOSURE MODES PASM, A-DEP, Auto, 5 Scene
FLASH Hotshoe, GN 13m (ISO 100)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical, 1.8" 115,000 pixel LCD
OTHER CF I/II, 9 custom functions, USB 2.0, RAW +JPEG
POWER Rechargable Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 126.5 x 94.2 x 64mm/485g
8 Mega Pixels
PROS Features, fast, performance, image quality
CONS LCD , some button placements
SUMMARY Well designed, fast and produces great results, good for semi-pros
WDC SCORE
90%
TESTED May 2005

MAKE AND MODEL
Cameras are listed in ascending order of price

SENSOR SIZE
How many megapixels? A guide to image quality

AWARDS
A gold rosette is given for highly recommended models

OVERALL SCORE
Total score out of 100, plus date model was tested

About the Ratings

RATINGS Products are rated out of 20 by five criteria which, when combined, provide a mark out of a hundred.
FEATURES How well specified is the product? Does it have all the features that you're likely to need?
DESIGN Is the design stylish or ugly? Comfortable or awkward? Functional or impractical? Design is about handling as well as looks.
PERFORMANCE How does it handle? Are the buttons well placed? Is the menu simple? Is it responsive or sluggish?
QUALITY How are the results? Sharp or soft? Is the colour accurate? Do the images suffer from noise, fringing, distortion?
VALUE Is it competitively priced? How does it compare with its nearest rivals? Our scores are based upon the retail price at launch (RRP).

In this volatile market, prices change almost monthly, and as cameras become cheaper they inevitably become better value. It would be impractical and confusing to change the scores every month, so we include the RRP along with the current average street price. Where there's a big difference it can be assumed that the product is now better value than when it was tested, but also that it may be coming towards the end of its natural shelf life. Highly recommended cameras receive the WDC rosette.

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On The Web

You'll find product photos and 360° Quicktime tours of virtually every current camera, plus sample test images taken by our reviewers for you to view or download. You can also buy tests or back issues online, or subscribe. In addition you'll find daily news on all the latest product launches, reader forums, a gallery for your own pictures, plus loads of features and techniques, useful links, competitions, events listings, bookshop and lots more, just visit **www.whatdigitalcamera.com**

WHAT DIGITAL CAMERA
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£90 Estimated Street Price (£100 RRP) — Fujifilm A400

CCD 4.1MP effective
LENS 38-114mm f/3.3-5.5
SHUTTER SPEED 2-1/1500sec
ISO Auto 100-400
EXPOSURE MODES P + 4 Scene
FLASH Built in, Auto plus 4 modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/1.8in 77,000 pixel LCD
OTHER xD, Pictbridge
POWER 2x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 93 x 60 x 27.5mm/126g

4 Mega Pixels

PROS Easy to use, nice results
CONS Bulky, plasticky and slow
SUMMARY ***Easy to use, and produces nice images at a reasonable price***

WDC SCORE **81%** TESTED July 2006

£110 Estimated Street Price (£120 RRP) — Olympus FE-115

CCD 5MP
LENS 38-106mm f/3.0-5.0
SHUTTER SPEED 2-1/1200sec
ISO Auto, 64-400
EXPOSURE MODES P + 5 Scene modes, Mov
FLASH GN 7m
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/1.5in LCD, 130,000 pixels
OTHER xD
POWER 2x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 87.5 x 62.5 x 38.5mm/140g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Easy to use
CONS Purple fringing, slow performance, tiny LCD
SUMMARY ***Disappointing performance despite the extra megapixels***

WDC SCORE **71%** TESTED Aug 2006

£120 Estimated Street Price (£179 RRP) — Kodak Z700

CCD 4.1MP
LENS 35-175 mm f/2.8-4.8
SHUTTER SPEED 8-1/1000sec
ISO Auto, 80, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, sport, landscape, close-up, 13 Sc
FLASH Built in, GN 9.5m
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/1.6in
OTHER Storage SD cards, Pictbridge, ±2.0 EV
POWER 2CR-V3, 2x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 94 x 72 x 54.5mm/ 219g

4 Mega Pixels

PROS Great specification at a great price
CONS A bit lethargic, slightly blocky images
SUMMARY ***Great specifications, however it doesn't quite deliver***

WDC SCORE **82%** TESTED Dec 2005

£120 Estimated Street Price (£149 RRP) — Nikon 4600

CCD 3.9MP effective
LENS 34-102mm
SHUTTER SPEED 4-1/3000sec
ISO Auto
EXPOSURE MODES P, Sc, Mov, ±2EV
FLASH GN 3.3m
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Yes/1.8in
OTHER SD, Best Shot Selector, auto & manual focus, USB
POWER 2x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 85 x 60 x 35mm/130g

4 Mega Pixels

PROS Simple to use, good price, punchy results
CONS Maybe too basic, difficulty resolving fine detail
SUMMARY ***Very basic and easy to use, and produces punchy images***

WDC SCORE **81%** TESTED May 2005

£120 Estimated Street Price (£169 RRP) — Pentax M10

CCD 6MP effective
LENS 35-105mm f2.8-4.9
SHUTTER SPEED 1/1500-4sec
ISO Auto, M, 65, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, 13 Scene
FLASH Auto plus five modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/ 2.5in LCD
OTHER SD
POWER 2x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 89 x 59.5 x 24.5mm/120g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Low price, compact body, usability
CONS Maybe too basic, difficulty resolving fine detail
SUMMARY ***Good build quality and excellent value, but less than stylish***

WDC SCORE **80%** TESTED July 2006

£120 Estimated Street Price (£170 RRP) — Nikon L3

CCD 5.0MP
LENS 38-116mm f3.2-5.3
SHUTTER SPEED 4-1/500th sec
ISO Auto, 50-200
EXPOSURE MODES Program AE, exp comp
FLASH 0.3-3m W/0.3-1.75m T
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2in LCD
OTHER SD
POWER 2x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 91 x 60.5 x 26mm/120g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Nice design and easy enough to use
CONS Poor image quality, generally bland
SUMMARY ***A rather bland entry-level camera that produces average results***

WDC SCORE **81%** TESTED June 2006

£130 Estimated Street Price (£130 RRP) — BenQ E600

CCD 6.19MP
LENS 35-105mm f2.8-4.8
SHUTTER SPEED 4-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 100-400
EXPOSURE MODES P, Auto, 6 Scene
FLASH Built-in, Auto plus 4 modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD, 230,000 pixel
OTHER Rotating front lens, SD
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 92 x 60 x 24.5mm/135g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Everything you need to take decent pictures
CONS Feels plasticky and is a little slow
SUMMARY ***A well-designed, very capable camera which produces excellent photos***

WDC SCORE **83%** TESTED June 2006

£140 Estimated Street Price (£160 RRP) — Sony S600

CCD 6MP
LENS 31-93mm f2.8-5.1
SHUTTER SPEED 1/8-1/2000sec
ISO 80-1000
EXPOSURE MODES Program, Auto ±2EV
FLASH 4 modes up to 7m
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/2in LCD
OTHER MS Duo Pro, MPEG VX
POWER 2x AA, Sony Stamina supplied
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 99 x 52 x 36.8mm/181g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS High ISO 1000, wide lens, reasonable price
CONS Noise at ISO 1000, plastic body, chunkiness
SUMMARY ***A middle-of-the-road camera, despite an impressive high ISO***

WDC SCORE **82%** TESTED Apr 2006

£150 Estimated Street Price (£239 RRP) — Canon A520

CCD 4.2MP total, 4.0MP effective
LENS 34-140mm f2.6-5.5
SHUTTER SPEED 15-1/2000sec
ISO 50-400
EXPOSURE MODES M, A, S, P, 5 pic modes, 8 scene modes
FLASH Built in
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/1.8in LCD
OTHER SD
POWER 2x AA cells
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 91 x 64 x 38.5mm/180g

4 Mega Pixels

PROS Accomplished performer
CONS Could be quicker and quieter
SUMMARY ***Assured performance by a capable camera, producing fine images***

WDC SCORE **86%** TESTED July 2005

£150 Estimated Street Price (£200 RRP) — Samsung L50

CCD 5.36MP total, 5MP effective
LENS 39-109mm f3.2-5.4
SHUTTER SPEED 15-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 50, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, Program, 11 scene
FLASH 0.2.5m-2.0m (W) / 0.3-1.5m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD 230,000 pixel
OTHER SD, 26MB internal, 30fps movie with stabilizer
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 93.3 x 52.1 x 22.3mm/120g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS LCD size, lightweight
CONS Menu is not very user-friendly
SUMMARY ***Nice point-and-shoot, producing pleasing photos. Complicated menus***

WDC SCORE **83%** TESTED Dec 2005

£150 Estimated Street Price (£250 RRP) — Fujifilm Z2

CCD 5MP
LENS 36-108mm f/3.5-4.0
SHUTTER SPEED 4-1/1000sec
ISO Auto, 64-1600
EXPOSURE MODES P, Auto, 5 scene modes
FLASH 0.3m-3m (W)/ 0.6m-2.3m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD
OTHER xD, USB 2.0, 640x480 30fps movies
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 90 x 55.2 x 18.6mm/130g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS High 1600 ISO, well built, stylish white option
CONS Lack of metering, can't zoom in movie mode
SUMMARY ***Decent point-and-shoot model with good design and nice features***

WDC SCORE **84%** TESTED Apr 2006

£150 Estimated Street Price (£250 RRP) — HP R817

CCD 5.31MP total, 5.1MP effective
LENS 36-180mm
SHUTTER SPEED 15-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 50-400
EXPOSURE MODES M, A, S, P, Auto, Scene
FLASH 3.8-8m
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2in 153,000 pixels
OTHER Real Life Technologies, SD, JPEG, PictBridge
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 91 x 30 x 57mm/190g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Good feature set, easy to use, value for money
CONS ISO 200+ noise, video mode, spoilable finish
SUMMARY ***Specifications and features make it attractive for the first-time buyer***

WDC SCORE **86%** TESTED Nov 2005

£160 Estimated Street Price (£220 RRP) — Olympus Mju 600

CCD 6MP effective/6.4MP Total
LENS 35-105mm f3.1-5.2
SHUTTER SPEED 4-1/1000 sec
ISO Auto, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600
EXPOSURE MODES P, 23 Scene, movie
FLASH Built in, GN 6.5
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD
OTHER xD, 8MB internal, 640x480 15fps movies
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 97 x 55 x 26.5mm/140g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS LCD in low light, start-up speed
CONS Some soft images, LCD in bright sunlight
SUMMARY ***Attractive, well built, ultimately impressing, but limited manual features***

WDC SCORE **84%** TESTED Dec 2005

£150 Estimated Street Price (£330 RRP) — Ricoh R3

CCD 5.25MP total, 5.13MP effective
LENS 28-200mm f3.3-4.8
SHUTTER SPEED 8-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 64-800
EXPOSURE MODES Auto plus 8 Scene
FLASH Built-in, Auto plus 3 modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR 2.5in 114,000 pixel LCD
OTHER 320x240 30fps Video, SD + 26MB Internal
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 95 x 53 x 26mm/135g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Lots of useful features, great lens
CONS Some barrel distortion at 28mm, AF reticence
SUMMARY ***Fast, flexible with a superb zoom range and image stabilisation***

WDC SCORE **87%** TESTED Jan 2006

£150 Estimated Street Price (£300 RRP) — Panasonic FX8

CCD 5MP
LENS 35-105mm f2.8-5.6
SHUTTER SPEED 8-1/2000sec
ISO 80-400
EXPOSURE MODES Program AE, 12 Sc, Mov
FLASH 0.3-4.0m (Wide/ISO Auto), 0.3-2.2m (Tele/ISO Auto)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD
OTHER SD, Image Stabilisation (OIS), continuous shooting
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 94.1 x 50.5 x 24.2mm/155g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Mega OIS, LCD, video, simplicity
CONS Cramped thumb space, average image quality
SUMMARY ***Competent lifestyle camera with great movie mode and stabilisation***

WDC SCORE **85%** TESTED Sept 2005

THE BUYERS' GUIDE

cameras up to £200

£160 Estimated Street Price (£260 RRP) — Kodak Z740

CCD 5.36MP CCD, 5.0MP effective
LENS 38-380mm f2.8-3.7
SHUTTER SPEED 8-1/1000sec
ISO Auto plus ISO 80,100, 200, 400, 800
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, 16 Scene, Mov
FLASH Built in GN 10.6
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Electronic/1.8in LCD
OTHER SD/MMC, 35MB internal storage, USB and 640 x 480 movie
POWER 2x AA, 1x CR-V3 or EasyShare dock with Ni-MH battery pack
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 97.6 x 77.5 x 72mm/287g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS 10x optical zoom, comfortable to hold
CONS Fringing, no manual white balance, fiddly joystick

SUMMARY ***Easy to use with plenty of features, some image quality issues***

WDC SCORE **82%** TESTED May 2005

£160 Estimated Street Price (£230 RRP) — Olympus SP-320

CCD 7MP
LENS 38-114mm f2.8-4.9
SHUTTER SPEED 15-1/2000 sec, Bulb
ISO Auto, 64-800
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, MASP, 25 Scenes, Mov
FLASH 3.8m (W)/2.2m (T) GN approx 7.5
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Yes/2.5in LCD
OTHER xD, interval shooting over 99 frames, JPEG and RAW
POWER 2xAA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 99.5 x 65 x 35mm/180g

7 Mega Pixels

PROS Small, has RAW and viewfinder, good images
CONS Two-handed holding awkward, some fringing

SUMMARY ***A good-value model that offers more than its rivals for the price***

WDC SCORE **85%** TESTED Sep 2006

£160 Estimated Street Price (£240 RRP) — Panasonic LZ2

CCD 5.36MP total, 5MP effective
LENS 37-222mm f2.8-4.5
SHUTTER SPEED 8-1/2000sec
ISO 64-400
EXPOSURE MODES Program, Sc, Mov
FLASH Built in
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR 2in LCD
OTHER SD, Image Stabilisation
POWER 2x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 101 x 64 x 33mm/224g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Lens, price, image stabilisation
CONS Some image noise, bulkier than most compacts

SUMMARY ***Fantastic lens and good colour at very reasonable price***

WDC SCORE **88%** TESTED July 2005

£170 Estimated Street Price (£170 RRP) — Casio EX-Z10

CCD 5MP total, 5.25MP effective
LENS 38-114mm f3.1-5.4
SHUTTER SPEED 1/8-1/2000th sec
ISO Auto, 50, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, M, A, S, 28 Scene modes
FLASH 0.4-3.1m (W)/ 0.4-1.8 (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/2in LCD 84,960 pixels
OTHER SD, 23Mb int, USB 2.0, 64x480 pixel 30fps movies
POWER 2x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 90 x 60 x 27.2mm/138g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Feature set, price
CONS Image noise, LCD resolution, menu system

SUMMARY ***Great features for the price, but not very user-friendly***

WDC SCORE **83%** TESTED Feb 2006

£170 Estimated Street Price (£279 RRP) — Sony W5

CCD 5.25MP total, 5.1 MP effective
LENS 38-114mm f2.8-5.2
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/1000sec
ISO Auto, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Program, Manual, 7 scene modes
FLASH Built in 0.2-4.5 (W) 0.3-2.5 (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/2.5in LCD
OTHER MS, MS Pro, 32MB internal
POWER Nikon EN-EL8
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 91 x 60 x 37.1mm/253g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS LCD screen, fast operation, sturdy build
CONS No separate playback button, less effective in low light

SUMMARY ***Sturdy, quick and produces good images – a family compact***

WDC SCORE **86%** TESTED Aug 2005

£170 Estimated Street Price (£190 RRP) — Acer CU6530

CCD 6.36MP effective
LENS 35-105mm f2.8-4.8
SHUTTER SPEED 1/2-1/1000sec
ISO Auto, 50-200
EXPOSURE MODES P + 16 Scene
FLASH Built-in, Auto plus 4 modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD
OTHER Pictbridge, SD, free dock
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 90 x 54 x 18mm/125g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Plenty of shooting options, slimline
CONS Granular images, a bit slow

SUMMARY ***Lots of features at the price, but image quality is less than great***

WDC SCORE **81%** TESTED July 2006

£170 Estimated Street Price (£220 RRP) — Ricoh R30

CCD 5.1MP effective
LENS 28-160mm f3.3-4.8
ISO Auto, 64-800
SHUTTER SPEED 8-1/2000sec
EXPOSURE MODES P, 8 Scene
FLASH 0.2m-2.4m (W) - 1.14-1.85 (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD
OTHER 320x240 AVI movie, SD/MMC, 28MB internal
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 95 x 26 x 53mm/135g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS 1cm macro, fast start, battery life, lens
CONS Noise in shadow areas, limited controls

SUMMARY ***Versatile wideangle lens and reasonable price. A good overall package***

WDC SCORE **85%** TESTED Mar 2006

£180 Estimated Street Price (£299 RRP) — Fujifilm F10

CCD 6.63MP total, 6.3MP effective
LENS 36-108mm f2.8-5
SHUTTER SPEED 3-1/2000sec
ISO 80-1600
EXPOSURE MODES Program, Scene, Mov
FLASH Built-in, 4m(W) - 6.5m(T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD
OTHER xD storage
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 92 x 58 x 27.3mm/200g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Big LCD, handling, low-light performance
CONS Little manual control, no RAW

SUMMARY ***Stylish, responsive, producing excellent images. Good ISO performance***

WDC SCORE **87%** TESTED June 2005

£180 Estimated Street Price (£279 RRP) — Casio EX-Z500

CCD 5MP effective
LENS 36-114mm f2.7-5.2
SHUTTER SPEED 1/8-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 50-400
EXPOSURE MODES P, + 31 Scene
FLASH Built-in auto, 4 modes, max range 2.4m
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.7in LCD
OTHER 640x480 @ 30fps Video, SD
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 88.5 x 57 x 20mm/112g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Attractive, big screen, uncluttered layout
CONS LCD colour, some controls in menus

SUMMARY ***At its best in bright sunlight; results are less pleasing in low light***

WDC SCORE **83%** TESTED Mar 2006

£180 Estimated Street Price (£300 RRP) — Fujifilm F11 Zoom

CCD 6.3MP
LENS 36-108mm f2.8-5.0
SHUTTER SPEED 3-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600
EXPOSURE MODES P, SP, AP, Auto, 5 Scene
FLASH 0.3-6.5m (W) 0.3-4m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD
OTHER USB 2.0, 640x480 30fps movie, xD
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 92 x 58.2 x 27.3mm/155g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS High ISO, control over aperture and shutter
CONS Occasional fringing and standard zoom range

SUMMARY ***A super compact, attractive, great features and good performer***

WDC SCORE **89%** TESTED Mar 2006

£180 Estimated Street Price (£250 RRP) — Panasonic LZ5

CCD 6.0MP
LENS 37-222mm f2.8-4.5
SHUTTER SPEED 60-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 64-800
EXPOSURE MODES P, Sc, Mov
FLASH 4.2m GN
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD
OTHER SD, High Viewpoint LCD
POWER 2 x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 100 x 62 x 45mm/200g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Lens and OIS still add value
CONS Image noise and an off-putting grainy screen

SUMMARY ***Image quality is OK and this is a good camera for taking snapshots***

WDC SCORE **85%** TESTED June 2006

£180 Estimated Street Price (£280 RRP) — Nikon P2

CCD 5.1MP effective
LENS 36-126mm f2.7-5.2
SHUTTER SPEED 8-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 64, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, A, 16 Sc
FLASH Built-in/GN11
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD
OTHER SD/MMC, 640x480 15fps Video, USB 2.0
POWER EN-EL8 Li-ion rechargeable battery pack
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 91 x 60 x 39mm/185g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Metering, AF, exposure, range of features
CONS No optical viewfinder, no storage card

SUMMARY ***Easy to use, innovative Wi-Fi technology and decent picture quality***

WDC SCORE **85%** TESTED Jan 2006

£190 Estimated Street Price (£299 RRP) — Fujifilm Z1

CCD 5.1MP effective
LENS 36-108mm f3.5-8.3
SHUTTER SPEED 4-1/1000sec
ISO Auto, 64-800
EXPOSURE MODES P + 5 Scene
FLASH Built-in
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD
OTHER 640x480 15fps Video, xD
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 90 x 55 x 18.6mm/130g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Design, ease of use, build quality
CONS Limited overrides, some lens distortion

SUMMARY ***Attractive, pretty fast and capable of decent pictures***

WDC SCORE **85%** TESTED Oct 2005

£190 Estimated Street Price (£280 RRP) — Olympus Mju 500

CCD 5MP effective
LENS 35-105mm f3.1-5.6
SHUTTER SPEED 4-1/1000sec
ISO 64-640
EXPOSURE MODES P, Sc, Mov, ±2EV
FLASH GN 7.8
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD
OTHER xD, PictBridge, 1.5fps for 4 frames
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 99 x 55.5 x 31mm/165g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Build quality, image colour & sharpness, LCD
CONS Some image noise, limited control

SUMMARY ***Weatherproof and simple to use, with a great LCD screen***

WDC SCORE **87%** TESTED Apr 2005

£190 Estimated Street Price (£230 RRP) — Kodak Z650

CCD 6MP effective
LENS 38-380mm f2.8-3.7
SHUTTER SPEED 1/8-1/1700sec
ISO Auto 80-160, 80, 100, 200, 400, 800
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, M, A, S, P, 17 Scene
FLASH Built-in Auto + 4 modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF, 201,000 pixels/2in LCD, 110,000 pixels
OTHER SD, USB 2.0, PictBridge
POWER NiMH
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 97.8 x 77.5 x 72.6mm/287g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Great lens and performance, user-friendly
CONS Close-up image quality, clunky operation

SUMMARY ***A great zoom lens gives a reliable all-round performance***

WDC SCORE **83%** TESTED Aug 2006

£200 Estimated Street Price (£250 RRP) — Canon A700

CCD 6MP
LENS 35-210mm f/2.8-4.8
SHUTTER SPEED 15-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 80-800
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, MASP, 14 Scene modes, Mov
FLASH 55cm-3.5m (W)/2.5m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR OPT/2.5in LCD, 115,000 pixels
OTHER SD, 2fps continuous shooting to card capacity
POWER 2xAA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 94.5 x 66.5 x 43.4mm/200g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Handling, images, lens, manual control, ISO range
CONS No RAW, low-res LCD, no image stabilisation
SUMMARY **What it lacks in style, it more than makes up for in quality**

WDC SCORE **89%** TESTED Aug 2006

£200 Estimated Street Price (£280 RRP) — Olympus Mju 700

CCD 7.1MP effective
LENS 36-126mm f2.7-5.2
SHUTTER SPEED 8-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 64, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, A, 16 Sc
FLASH Built-in/GN11
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD
OTHER SD/MMC, 640x480 15fps Video, USB 2.0
POWER EN-EL8 Li-ion rechargeable battery pack
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 91 x 60 x 39mm/185g

7 Mega Pixels

PROS Metering, AF, exposure, range of features
CONS No optical viewfinder, no storage card
SUMMARY **Stylish and weatherproof, but average focusing and features**

WDC SCORE **85%** TESTED Aug 2006

£200 Estimated Street Price (£269 RRP) — Pentax W10

CCD 6.0MP
LENS 38-114mm, f3.3-4
SHUTTER SPEED 4-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 64-800
EXPOSURE MODES Program, Green, 18 scene modes
FLASH Built-in, auto plus four modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD, 115,000 pixels
OTHER PictBridge, DPOF, SD
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 107 x 54.5 x 23mm/140g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Convenient design, weatherproof & dustproof
CONS Disappointing images, sluggish performance
SUMMARY **A stylish waterproof model that lacks true imaging panache**

WDC SCORE **78%** TESTED Sep 2006

£200 Estimated Street Price (£280 RRP) — Fujifilm S5600

CCD 5.2MP total, 5.1MP effective
LENS 38-380mm f3.2-3.5
SHUTTER SPEED 15-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 64-400
EXPOSURE MODES P, + 18 scene, ±2EV
FLASH Built-in, Auto plus 3 modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF/2inch 115,000-pixel LCD
OTHER 640x480 15fps Video, xD
POWER 4x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 88 x 60 x 36.5mm/150g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Image quality, handling
CONS Oversharpening, no stabilisation
SUMMARY **Has good handling and performance, and it's easy-to-use, too**

WDC SCORE **86%** TESTED Special 05

£200 Estimated Street Price (£299 RRP) — Canon IXUS 55

CCD 5.0MP effective
LENS 35-105mm f2.8-4.9
SHUTTER SPEED 15-1/1500sec
ISO Auto, 50-400
EXPOSURE MODES Two Auto, 9 scene
FLASH Built-in, Auto and four modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/2.5in TFT, 115,000 pixels
OTHER SD, 640x480 30fps movies
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 86 x 53 x 21.5mm/140g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Features, handling, speed of operation
CONS Noisy images, sharpness, erratic focusing
SUMMARY **Attractive and competent, if not a spectacular performer**

WDC SCORE **83%** TESTED Feb 2006

£200 Estimated Street Price (£200 RRP) — Fujifilm Z3

SENSOR 5.1MP 1/2.5in Super CCD HR
LENS 36-108mm, f/3.5-4.2
SHUTTER SPEED 4-1/1000sec
ISO Auto, equiv 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600
EXPOSURE MODES Programmed AE, Movie
FLASH Built-in, Auto plus 4 modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in 230,000 pixel LCD
OTHER xD, internal memory 10MB
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 90 x 55 x 20mm/130g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Good looks, high ISO
CONS Price, low-light AF is disappointing
SUMMARY **There are many lifestyle cameras, but few as attractive to women**

WDC SCORE **84%** TESTED Nov 2006

£210 Estimated Street Price (£249 RRP) — Panasonic FX01

CCD 6.0MP
LENS 28-102mm f2.8-5.6
SHUTTER SPEED 8-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 80, 100, 200, 400, HIGH (800-1600)
EXPOSURE MODES Prog, 16 scene, Mov
FLASH 0.6m-4m (Wide)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in TFT, 207,000 pixels
OTHER SD/MMC, Image Stabiliser, Widescreen 30fps movie
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 94 x 51 x 24mm/153g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Design and build, wide lens, ISO 100 images
CONS Noise at ISO400, small buttons, limited control
SUMMARY **A gorgeous camera to use; gives good results in good light**

WDC SCORE **89%** TESTED May 2006

£210 Estimated Street Price (£270 RRP) — Kodak V570

CCD Dual 5MP CCD
LENS 23mm f2.8, 39-117mm f3.9-4.4
SHUTTER SPEED 1/8-1/4000sec
ISO Auto, 64-160
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, landscape, macro + 20 scene
FLASH Built-in, Auto + 4 modes, GN 6.3
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD
OTHER 640x480 30fps Video, SD
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 101 x 49 x 20mm/125g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Flexible optical system, speed, aesthetics
CONS Limited ISO range, camera shake warnings
SUMMARY **Good look, capable of great shots, lacks ISO range and user overrides**

WDC SCORE **86%** TESTED Mar 2006

£220 Estimated Street Price (£250 RRP) — Sony W70

CCD 7MP
LENS 38-114mm f2.8-5.6
SHUTTER SPEED 1-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 100-1000
EXPOSURE MODES Prog, Auto, Scene modes, Mov
FLASH GN4m
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Yes/2.5in LCD, 115,000 pixels
OTHER MS Duo Pro
POWER Li-ion cell with charger
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 89 x 57 x 23mm/157g

7 Mega Pixels

PROS ISO range, handling, viewfinder
CONS Some noise at high ISO, bit bland
SUMMARY **Smart, simple and effective, video mode is disappointing**

WDC SCORE **85%** TESTED Sep 2006

£220 Estimated Street Price (£300 RRP) — Olympus SP-500UZ

CCD 6.37MP total, 6.0MP effective
LENS 38-380mm f2.8-3.7
SHUTTER SPEED 15-1/1000sec
ISO Auto, 80, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES M, A, S, P, Auto, 21 Scene
FLASH 0.3m-4.5m (W) 1.2m-3.4 T, GN9
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF 201,600pixel/2.5in LCD
OTHER 320x240 30fps Video, 10MB internal, xD
POWER 4x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 105.5 x 74.5 x 71mm/285g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS RAW, Good functionality, LCD and EVF
CONS Fringing, some oversharpening and image noise
SUMMARY **Competent and useful, this is a viable backup to a DSLR**

WDC SCORE **86%** TESTED Dec 2005

£220 Estimated Street Price (£300 RRP) — Canon IXUS 60

CCD 6.0MP
LENS 35-105mm f2.8-4.9
SHUTTER SPEED 15-1/1500sec
ISO Auto, 80-800
EXPOSURE MODES P, Sc, Mov
FLASH GN 3.5-5m
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Opt/2.5in LCD, 173,000 pixels
OTHER SD
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 86 x 54 x 22mm/150g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Nice design and build, good image quality
CONS Pricey, some image fall-off and poor control
SUMMARY **Produces good results and is easy to use, if a little pricey**

WDC SCORE **88%** TESTED June 2006

£220 Estimated Street Price (£310 RRP) — Olympus SP-350

CCD 8.3MP total, 8MP effective
LENS 38-114mm f/2.8-4.9
SHUTTER SPEED 15-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 80, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, M, A, S, P, 14 scene
FLASH Built-in, Auto and four modes, hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/2.5in LCD 115,000 pixels
OTHER 640x480 30fps Video, xD
POWER 2x AA, CRV-3 Lithium
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 99.5 x 65 x 35mm/180g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Sturdy, natural colours, accurate exposures
CONS Camera shake, results at maximum resolution
SUMMARY **Good handling and performance; 8MP results can be disappointing**

WDC SCORE **86%** TESTED Feb 2006

£220 Estimated Street Price (£319 RRP) — Canon A620

CCD 7.4MP total, 7.1MP effective
LENS 35-140mm f2.8-4.1
SHUTTER SPEED 15-1/2500sec
ISO Auto, 50, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, A, S, M, Cust, 11 scene
FLASH 45cm-4.2m (W)/ 3m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR OPT/2.0in TFT 115,000 pixels
OTHER SD/MMC, My Colours 640x480 30fps movies
POWER 4xAA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 104.8 x 66 x 49.1mm/235g

7 Mega Pixels

PROS Wide range of features, easy to use
CONS AiAF not always accurate
SUMMARY **With features suitable for both novices and enthusiasts, this is great value**

WDC SCORE **88%** TESTED Jan 2006

£220 Estimated Street Price (£280 RRP) — Sony T5

CCD 5.1MP effective
LENS 38-114mm f3.5-4.5
SHUTTER SPEED 1/8-1/1000sec
ISO 64-400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, Scene modes, Mov
FLASH Built in, GN8
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Opt/2.5in LCD
OTHER Memory Stick Duo, 680x480 30fps movies, USB 2.0
POWER Li-ion rechargeable battery pack
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 93.6 x 60 x 20.3mm/114g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Good image quality, metering and AF, styling
CONS No optical viewfinder, slow menus, basic controls
SUMMARY **Attractive, compact and capable of producing great pictures**

WDC SCORE **86%** TESTED Jan 2006

£220 Estimated Street Price (£250 RRP) — Ricoh R4

CCD 6MP
LENS 28-200mm f3.3-4.8
SHUTTER SPEED 1/30-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 64-800
EXPOSURE MODES Program AE, 6 Sc, Mov
FLASH Built-in
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD, 153,000 pixels
OTHER SD, Image Stabilisation, USB
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 95 x 26 x 53mm/135g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Useful lens, image stabilised, build
CONS Noise at high ISO, no optical viewfinder
SUMMARY **A nice camera that performs well at a good price**

WDC SCORE **88%** TESTED May 2006

THE BUYERS' GUIDE

cameras £200 - £300

£230 Samsung L85

Estimated Street Price (£300 RRP)

CCD 8.13MP
LENS 38-190mm f2.8-4.4
SHUTTER SPEED 15-1/2000sec
ISO Auto 50-400
EXPOSURE MODES M, A, S, P, 11 Scene, Mov, ±2EV
FLASH 0.2m-3m Wide, 0.5-2.5m Tele
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD, 230,000 pixels
OTHER SD storage, HDMI
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 109.2 x 64 x 29mm/190g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Good looks, well made, feature-packed
CONS Fringing, lack of image detail, quirky menus
SUMMARY **Plenty of bells and whistles and nice to use, let down by the sensor**

WDC SCORE 84%
TESTED July 06

£230 Sony W7

Estimated Street Price (£329 RRP)

CCD 7.4MP total, 7.0MP effective
LENS 38-114mm f2.8-5.2
SHUTTER SPEED 15-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 100-400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, M, 6 scene modes
FLASH Built-in
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Opt/2.5in LCD
OTHER MS, slot, 32MB internal
POWER 2x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 91 x 60 x 37.1mm/253g

7 Mega Pixels

PROS Great performer all round
CONS High-resolution images
SUMMARY **Good specs and handling, great images, use a tripod in low light levels**

WDC SCORE 86%
TESTED July 2005

£230 Olympus Mju 800

Estimated Street Price (£299RRP)

CCD 8.3MP total, 8.0MP effective
LENS 38-114mm f2.8-4.9
SHUTTER SPEED 4-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 64-1600
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S + 19 scene
FLASH Built-in, Auto plus 3 modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD
OTHER 640x480 15fps Video, xD card and 19MB int
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 103 x 58 x 33mm/181.5g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Image quality, LCD screen, build quality
CONS Left-hand backplate button visibility in bright sun
SUMMARY **Good-looking camera, producing high-quality images**

WDC SCORE 86%
TESTED Oct 2005

£240 Canon IXUS 65

Estimated Street Price (£240 RRP)

CCD 6MP
LENS 35-105mm f2.8-4.9
SHUTTER SPEED 15-1/1500sec
ISO Auto 80-800
EXPOSURE MODES P, Scene, Mov
FLASH GN 3.5-5m
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/3in LCD, 173,000 pixels
OTHER SD storage
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 90 x 57 x 20mm/175g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Sexy design, big LCD, nice handling
CONS Iffy low-light AF focusing, slightly warm flash
SUMMARY **Stylish and fun, the young and the restless will love this camera**

WDC SCORE 86%
TESTED Sep 2006

£240 Sony T9

Estimated Street Price (£330 RRP)

CCD 6MP
LENS 38-114mm f3.5-4.3
SHUTTER SPEED 1-1/1000sec
ISO Auto, 80-400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P + 10 scene
FLASH Built-in, Auto plus 3 modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in 230,600 pixel LCD
OTHER 640x480 @30fps Video, MS Duo PRO
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 90 x 55 x 20.5mm/160g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Slim,fuss-free, excellent AF and exposures
CONS Confusing menu; lens cover can open too easily
SUMMARY **A stylish point-and-shooter, with bags of style and decent image quality**

WDC SCORE 83%
TESTED Apr 2006

£240 Nikon S5

Estimated Street Price (£299 RRP)

CCD 6.18MP
LENS 35-105mm f3.0-5.4
SHUTTER SPEED 2-1/500sec
ISO Auto, 50, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES P, 4 subject, 11 scene, Mov
FLASH 0.3m-2.6m (W)/ 0.3m-1.4 (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in TFT, 230,000 pixels
OTHER SD/MMC, 21MB internal, USB, 640x480 30fps movie
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 93 x 59 x 20mm/135g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Design, features, images
CONS Slow AF, camera shake-prone
SUMMARY **Above-average performance for this type of compact camera**

WDC SCORE 85%
TESTED May 2006

£240 Canon IXUS 750

Estimated Street Price (£419 RRP)

CCD 7.4MP total, 7.1MP effective
LENS 37-111mm f2.8-4.9
SHUTTER SPEED 15-1/2000 sec
ISO Auto, 50, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES P (manual), Auto, 9 Sc
FLASH 50cm-5m (W)/ 3m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/2.5in LCD, 115,000 pixels
OTHER SD/MMC, 5 photo effects, My colours, 640x480 30fps Mov
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 89.5 x 57 x 27.4mm/170g

7 Mega Pixels

PROS Fast operation, build
CONS Limited manual features, some fragile parts
SUMMARY **Fast, well-built point-and-shoot, but limited feature set**

WDC SCORE 85%
TESTED Special 05

£240 Fujifilm F30

Estimated Street Price (£280 RRP)

CCD 6.3MP SuperCCD HR
LENS 36-108mm f2.8-5.0
SHUTTER SPEED 3-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 100-3200
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, Scene, Anti-Blur
FLASH 60cm-6.5m (wideangle)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD
OTHER 640x480 30fps movies, spotmeter
POWER Li-ion (1800mAh - 580 shots)
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 93 x 57 x 28mm/195g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Great images up to ISO1600, fast, hi-res screen
CONS No viewfinder, misleading 'manual' position
SUMMARY **A great camera with few bad habits aimed at everyday snappers**

WDC SCORE 88%
TESTED Sep 2006

£245 Nikon P3

Estimated Street Price (£350 RRP)

CCD 8.34MP
LENS 36-126mm f2.7-5.3
SHUTTER SPEED 8-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 50-400
EXPOSURE MODES P, Aperture Priority, Auto, 16 Scene, Mov
FLASH Built-in, Auto plus 4 modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD, 150,000 pixels
OTHER Wireless printing and file transfer, SD
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 92 x 61 x 31mm/170g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Chunky, easy to hold, impressive results
CONS Unnecessary WiFi feature
SUMMARY **A fine camera which performs stoutly but is pricey due to WiFi feature**

WDC SCORE 84%
TESTED June 2006

£245 Panasonic FZ7

Estimated Street Price (£349 RRP)

CCD 6.0MP
LENS 36-432mm f2.8-3.3
SHUTTER SPEED 60-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 80-400, (High Sens 800, 1600)
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P,A,S,M, 16 Scene
FLASH 0.3m-6m (W) 0.3m-5.4m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Electronic/ 2.5in LCD
OTHER SD/MMC, 16:9 30fps movie 16:9 JPEG
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 112.5 x 72.2 x 79mm/310g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Lens, OIS, manual focus
CONS No RAW, noise from ISO 400, limited control
SUMMARY **An improvement on previous models with some good features**

WDC SCORE 86%
TESTED Apr 2006

£245 Ricoh R5

Estimated Street Price (£280 RRP)

CCD 7.24MP 1/2.5inch CCD
LENS 28-200mm
SHUTTER SPEED 8-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 64-1600
EXPOSURE MODES P, 9 Scene, ±2EV, Mov
FLASH Built-in, Auto plus 4 modes
VIEWFINDER/ MONITOR None/2.5in, 230,000pixel LCD
OTHER USB 2.0 High Speed, SD/MMC, internal 26MB
POWER Rechargeable cell (DB-60)
SIZE/WEIGHT 96 x 55 x 26mm/140g

7 Mega Pixels

PROS Great lens, image stabilisation, high ISO
CONS Design, noise at high ISO, no viewfinder
SUMMARY **Offering something different without compromising much quality**

WDC SCORE 87%
TESTED Nov 2006

£250 Nikon S6

Estimated Street Price (£350 RRP)

CCD 6.0MP
LENS 35-105mm f3-5.4
SHUTTER SPEED 2-1/500sec
ISO Auto, 50-400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, A, S, M, Sc
FLASH 0.3-2.6m W/0.3-1.4m T
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/3in LCD
OTHER SD, WiFi
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 100.5 x 60 x 21mm/140g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Nice design, WiFi, AF
CONS Screen hard to see, limited control, pricey
SUMMARY **A nice performer with features which appeal to the more tech-savvy user**

WDC SCORE 86%
TESTED June 2006

£250 Olympus Mju 810

Estimated Street Price (£330 RRP)

CCD 8.3MP
LENS 35-105mm f2.8-4.7
SHUTTER SPEED 4-1/1000sec
ISO Auto, 64-3200
EXPOSURE MODES Program setting plus 20 scene, Mov
FLASH Auto plus 3 modes, max range 5.2m
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in 230,000 pixel LCD
OTHER 640x480 @ 30fps video, xD
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 97 x 56 x 22.7mm/145g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Lovely design, weatherproof, image quality
CONS Limited spec, low-light image quality
SUMMARY **Easy to use and good design makes this a winner**

WDC SCORE 85%
TESTED May 2006

£250 Panasonic FX9

Estimated Street Price (£350 RRP)

CCD 6.37MP total, 6MP effective
LENS 35-105mm f2.8-5.0
SHUTTER SPEED 8-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 80, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, 14 Scene
FLASH 0.3-4m (W) 0.3-2.2 (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD 207,000 pixels
OTHER SD, 30fps movie
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 94.1 x 50.5 x 24.2mm/155g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS LCD, anti-shake
CONS Limited space around back
SUMMARY **Great LCD, fast performer, producing good-quality pictures and movies**

WDC SCORE 86%
TESTED Dec 2005

£250 Fujifilm E900

Estimated Street Price (£280 RRP)

CCD 9.24MP total, 9.0MP effective
LENS 32-128mm f2.8-5.6
SHUTTER SPEED 15-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 80-800
EXPOSURE MODES M, A, S, P + Auto + 4 Scene modes
FLASH Built-in, Auto, plus 3 modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR OPT/2in
OTHER 640x480 pixel 30fps video, xD
POWER 2x AA cells
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 106 x 63 x 34.5mm/200g

9 Mega Pixels

PROS Fantastic spec, great user control
CONS 9MP results not much better than 5MP
SUMMARY **Good specification and value for money, but do we really need 9MP?**

WDC SCORE 85%
TESTED Jan 2006

£250 Estimated Street Price (£279 RRP) — Olympus Mju 720

SENSOR 7.4MP
LENS 38-114mm f3.4-5.7
SHUTTER SPEED 4-1/1000sec
ISO Auto, 64-400 (+ 800, 1600)
EXPOSURE MODES P, 24 Scene, Mov
FLASH 3.8m (W)/2.8m (T) GN approx 6.8
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR No/2.5in LCD, 115,000 pixels
OTHER xD, waterproof to 3m, shockproof to 1.5m drop
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 91 x 58.7 x 19.8mm/149g

7.4 Mega Pixels

PROS Great looks, good results in good light
CONS Couple of handling issues in terms of button usage
SUMMARY **Takes lovely shots and robust enough to let a child have a go with it**

WDC SCORE 86%
TESTED October 2006

£250 Estimated Street Price (£390 RRP) — Canon IXUS WIFI

CCD 5.0MP
LENS 35-105mm f2.8-4.9
SHUTTER SPEED 15-1/15000sec
ISO Auto, 50-400
EXPOSURE MODES P + 10 scene
FLASH Built-in, Auto plus 4 modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/2in 118,000 pixel LCD
OTHER 640x480 @30fps Video, SD, WiFi
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 99 x 54.5 x 21.5mm/130g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Fast wireless printing, broad spec, IXUS style
CONS Wifi downloading only works with XP
SUMMARY **Nice enough camera but the Wireless has limited benefits**

WDC SCORE 83%
TESTED Apr 2006

£260 Estimated Street Price (£329 RRP) — Nikon S4

CCD 6.0MP effective
LENS 38-380mm f3.5
SHUTTER SPEED 2-1/1000sec
ISO 50-400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, 16 scene modes
FLASH 3.0m/10ft
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in LCD
OTHER Pictbridge, USB 2.0, SD cards, 13MB internal
POWER 2x Ni-MH AA (supplied), or 2x AA alkaline
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 111.5 x 68.5 x 37mm/205g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Size, zoom range, image quality, performance
CONS No image stabilisation, no manual control
SUMMARY **Great lens on small body, well made, good handing and image quality**

WDC SCORE 88%
TESTED Special 05

£260 Estimated Street Price (£270 RRP) — Panasonic TZ1

CCD 5.0MP
LENS 35-350mm f2.8-4.2
SHUTTER SPEED 60-1/2000sec
ISO 80-800
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, Simple 19 Scene
FLASH Built-in with auto plus 4 modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in TFT LCD, 114,000 pxls
OTHER Image stabilisation, optional waterproof housing
POWER 8.4V 680mAh Li-ion rechargeable cell
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 112 x 58 x 40mm/234g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Swift, well-designed and excellent all-round
CONS Image processing can make images grainy
SUMMARY **Awesome specification, slickly designed and offering very good value**

WDC SCORE 88%
TESTED June 2006

£260 Estimated Street Price (£299 RRP) — Kodak Z612

CCD 6.1MP
LENS 35-420mm f2.8-f4.8
SHUTTER SPEED 16-1/1000sec
ISO Auto, 80, 100, 200, 400, 800
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, PASM, 16 scene modes
FLASH Auto plus three modes
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF, 202,000 pixels/2.5in LCD
OTHER SD, 32MB internal memory, 30fps video
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 104 x 74 x 69mm/300g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS User-friendly, useful lens, range of modes
CONS Clunky operation, shutter button design
SUMMARY **A pleasing but bulky camera that lives up to its 'Superzoom' tag**

WDC SCORE 85%
TESTED Sep 2006

£270 Estimated Street Price (£300 RRP) — Casio EX-Z1000

SENSOR 1/1.8in CCD 10.37MP
LENS 38-114mm f2.8-5.4
SHUTTER SPEED 4-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 50-400
EXPOSURE MODES P, Best Shot, Mov
FLASH 3.6m (W)/1.9m (T) GN approx 10
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.8in LCD, 230,400 pixels
OTHER SD, Anti-shake system, continuous shooting 1 shot/1.2sec
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 92 x 58.4 x 22.4mm/139g

10 Mega Pixels

PROS Compact, powerful and high resolution
CONS Some functions slow to access
SUMMARY **This compact has the talent, performance and spec to back up its looks**

WDC SCORE 85%
TESTED October 2006

£270 Estimated Street Price (£350 RRP) — Sony H2

CCD 6MP
LENS 36-432mm f2.8-3.5
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 80-1000
EXPOSURE MODES M, A, S, P, 7 Sc, Mov, ±2EV
FLASH 30cm-9m (W) / 90cm-6.8m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF 201,000pixels/ 2in 85,000 pixels
OTHER MS Duo, Super Steady Shot IS, USB 2.0
POWER 2x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 113.2 x 83 x 94mm/389g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Design, ISO range, aperture, IS, flash power
CONS Underexposed images in high contrast
SUMMARY **Fun to use and a well-made camera, lovely all-rounder**

WDC SCORE 87%
TESTED July 2006

£280 Estimated Street Price (£299RRP) — Sony P200

CCD 7.2MP effective
LENS 38-114mm f2.8-f/5.2
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/1000sec
ISO Auto, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Program & 9 scene modes
FLASH Built in
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/2in LCD
OTHER MS, MS Pro
POWER InfoLITHIUM NP-FR1
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 104 x 51.5 x 27.9mm/180g

7 Mega Pixels

PROS Fast, good-quality images, build
CONS LCD visibility in bright sunlight
SUMMARY **Impressively specified in a small body, but images are noisy**

WDC SCORE 84%
TESTED July 2005

£285 Estimated Street Price (£399 RRP) — Canon IXUS 800 IS

CCD 6MP
LENS 35-140mm f2.8-5.5
SHUTTER SPEED 15-1/1600sec
ISO 80-800
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, 11 Scene modes
FLASH GN 3.5m (W), 2m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/2.5in P-Si TFT, 173,000 pixels
OTHER 9 point AiAF, spot metering, SD
POWER Li-ion (NB-5L)
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 90.4 x 56.5 x 26.4mm/165g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Build, high ISO, Image Stabiliser, performance
CONS Low-light focusing, no battery charge status display
SUMMARY **Great design, nice features and good pictures overall**

WDC SCORE 88%
TESTED July 2006

£300 Estimated Street Price (£350 RRP) — Kodak V610

CCD Dual 6.0MP CCD
LENSES 38-114mm f3.9-4.4, 120-380mm f4.8
SHUTTER SPEEDS 8-1/1200sec
ISO Auto, 64-800
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, Landscape, macro + 20 Scene
FLASH Built-in, Auto plus 4 modes, GN 6.3
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.8in 230,000pixel LCD
OTHER 640x480 @30fps Video, SD
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 111 x 55.5 x 23.2mm/160g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Optical system, speed of operation, look
CONS Noisy and/or blurry
SUMMARY **A slim dual-lens superzoom but works better on paper than in the field**

WDC SCORE 82%
TESTED July 2006

£310 Estimated Street Price (£450 RRP) — Panasonic LX1

CCD 8.61MP total, 8.4MP effective
LENS 28-112mm f2.8-4.9
SHUTTER SPEED 60-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 80-400
EXPOSURE MODES M, A, S, P, plus 14 Scene
FLASH Auto, plus 6
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR None/2.5in TFT, 207,000 pixels
OTHER 848x480 30fps movie, SD, JPEG, RAW, TIFF
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 106 x 56 x 25.5mm/185g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Fully featured, unique CCD format
CONS Noise can be an issue over ISO 100, expensive
SUMMARY **Full specifications with simple handling, nice design and good build**

WDC SCORE 85%
TESTED Nov 2005

£310 Estimated Street Price (£449 RRP) — Canon S3 IS

CCD 6.0MP
LENS 36-432mm f2.7-3.5
SHUTTER SPEED 15-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, High ISO Auto, 80-800
EXPOSURE MODES M, A, S, P, 14 Sc, Mov, ±2EV
FLASH 50cm-5.2m (W) / 90cm-4.0m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF 115,000pixels/2in 115,000 pixels
OTHER SD, MyColour mode, photo in video, IS USM lens
POWER 4 x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 113.4 x 78 x 75.5mm/410g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Decent zoom, gives excellent results
CONS No RAW, fringing at tele end of lens, poor EVF
SUMMARY **Well made and specified, the S3 IS is capable of fantastic results**

WDC SCORE 89%
TESTED July 2006

£330 Estimated Street Price (£500 RRP) — Fujifilm S9500

CCD 9.2MP total, 9MP effective
LENS 28-300mm f2.8-4.9
SHUTTER SPEED 1/4-1/4000sec
ISO 80-1600
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, M, A, S, P + 5 Scene, Mov
FLASH Built-in/hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF/1.8in 235,000 pixel LCD
OTHER xD and CF I & II slots
POWER 4x AA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 128 x 93 x 129mm/645g

9 Mega Pixels

PROS Low image noise, good features
CONS Some quirky handling, expensive
SUMMARY **Minor quirks aside, a good camera producing images with little noise**

WDC SCORE 86%
TESTED Dec 2005

£340 Estimated Street Price (£500 RRP) — Canon S80

CCD 8.3MP total, 8.0 MP effective
LENS 28-100mm
SHUTTER SPEED 15-1/2000sec
ISO Auto, 50, 100, 200, 400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P,A,S,M, Sc, Mov
FLASH 4.2m(W) 2m (T)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR OPT/2.5in, 115,000 pixels
OTHER SD
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 104 x 57 x 39mm/290g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Interface, images, features
CONS No RAW, price
SUMMARY **Great handling and picture quality, ideal for the advanced enthusiast**

WDC SCORE 90%
TESTED Jan 2006

£350 Estimated Street Price (£550 RRP) — Nikon D50

CCD 6.24MP total, 6.1MP effective
LENS Interchangeable
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/4000sec, Bulb
ISO 200-1600
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, A, S, M, Sc
FLASH GN 15m (ISO200), hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Opt/2in LCD
OTHER SD, 3 Colour space, Pictbridge, USB 2.0
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 133 x 102 x 76mm/540g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Simple, image quality, design & build, price
CONS Lacks some features such as PC socket
SUMMARY **Controls are stripped back, but it is easy to use and fast at a good price**

WDC SCORE 87%
TESTED Aug 2005

THE WORD
On the street
Camera dealers' hot offers

UK DISCOUNT SALES
www.ukdiscountsales.co.uk
0845 227 0007
'Looking for early Christmas presents? We have great offers on the Samsung NV Range starting from only £188.99. Order one now and at checkout enter WOTS in the coupon provided and receive a free 256MB USB Pen Drive. In fact, order anything over £150.00 using WOTS and still receive a pen drive!'

BUYACAMERA
www.buyacamera.co.uk
01257 426054
'We have an exclusive at present on a manufacturer-refurbished Fuji E510 at £99.99 (was £179.99) including 6-month guarantee. Order it on our website or call 01257 426054.'

STUDIO KIT DIRECT
www.studiokitdirect.com
01746 769 768
'Studio Kit Direct specialise in the Lee filters system. Huge stocks and very competitive pricing means we will have the items you are looking for. We also offer FREE UK P&P on all Lee filters orders. Please see the website for full details or call us.'

PARK CAMERAS
08450 580 480
'Our top 3 deals for this month:
1. Canon EOS 400D body for new low price of £479.99 (saving £170 from the SRP of £649.99).
2. Nikon D80 now only £569.99 with free dust-cleaning blower for WDC readers.
3. Sony alpha A100 now only £494.95 with free SanDisk 512MB CF Card for WDC readers.'
www.Parkcameras.com

£350 Estimated Street Price (£550 RRP)
Pentax *iST DL

CCD 6.31MP total, 6.1MP effective
LENS Interchangeable
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/4000sec, Bulb
ISO 200-3200
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, Auto, 7 PICT modes
FLASH Pop-up and TTL hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR TTL Optical via Penta mirror/2.5in
OTHER SD storage, RAW, JPEG
POWER Four AA or 2 CRV-3
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 125 x 92.5 x 67mm/470g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Simple to use, great results
CONS RAW processing software is limited
SUMMARY **Impressive results, positive handling and good build quality**

WDC SCORE **89%** TESTED Sept 2005

£360 Estimated Street Price (£550 RRP)
Panasonic FZ30

CCD 8MP effective, 8.3MP total
LENS 35-420mm, f2.8-3.7
SHUTTER SPEED 60-1/2000sec
ISO 80-400
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, A, S, M, plus 14 Sc
FLASH GN 7 (auto) hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF/2in LCD 230,000 pixels
OTHER SD, Pictbridge, USB 2.0, Mega OIS, RAW
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 141 x 86 x 138mm/740g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Features, handling, EVF, good images possible
CONS Noise at high ISO, camera shake, RAW conversion
SUMMARY **Good features and spec, however it suffers from noise at ISO 200**

WDC SCORE **85%** TESTED Nov 2005

£400 Estimated Street Price (£650 RRP)
Nikon 8400

CCD 8MP effective
LENS 24-85mm
SHUTTER SPEED 8-1/3000sec
ISO 50-400
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, Sc, ±2EV, Mov
FLASH Built-in/hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF /1.8in LCD
OTHER CF, swivel LCD, 2.3fps over five frames, RAW, TIFF, JPEG
POWER Li-Ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 113.6 x 82.5 x 75mm/400g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS 24mm lens, functional, build quality
CONS Some fringing & noise, overly complicated menus
SUMMARY **A marked improvement on some recent Nikon cameras, very nice**

WDC SCORE **89%** TESTED Jan 2005

£400 Estimated Street Price (£499 RRP)
Panasonic FZ50

CCD 1/1.8in Type CCD, 10.1MP
LENS 7.4-88.8mm, (35-420mm equiv), f2.8-3.7, Leica DC Vario-Elmarit
SHUTTER SPEED 1/4 - 1/2000sec
ISO 80-1600
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, A, S, M, 16 scene
FLASH Built in, TTL hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR 0.44in EVF/2in, 207,000 pixel LCD
OTHER SD, SDHC, MMC, RAW, 30fps
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 141 x 86 x 142mm/734g

10 Mega Pixels

PROS Image quality, lens, speed, manual functionality
CONS Electronic viewfinder lag, big, noise at high ISO
SUMMARY **High-value advantage over rivals**

WDC SCORE **85%** TESTED Nov 2006

£450 Estimated Street Price (£550 RRP)
Samsung GX-1L

CCD 6.3MP
LENS Pentax K-AF/ K-AF 2
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/4000sec + B
ISO 200-3200
EXPOSURE MODES M, A, S, P, 20 Scene
FLASH Built in/Hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Pentamirror/2.5in LCD
OTHER SD, RAW, 2.8fps
POWER 4xAA
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 125 x 92.5 x 67mm/470g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Good image quality, ease of use, speed
CONS Slight fringing, depth of field preview
SUMMARY **Easy to use, small and produces good results**

WDC SCORE **88%** TESTED May 2006

£500 Estimated Street Price (£600 RRP)
Olympus E-500

CMOS 8.89MP total, 8MP effective
LENS FourThirds mount
SHUTTER SPEED 60-1/4000sec & Bulb
ISO 100-400 boost up to 1600
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, 15 Scene modes
FLASH Pop-up GN13, hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/2.5in LCD
OTHER CF I/II, xD, USB2.0, sRGB and Adobe RGB
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 129.5 x 94.5 x 66mm/435g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Feature packed, price, image quality
CONS Fiddly button positions, no dedicated DOF button
SUMMARY **Something for everyone, packs a lot into a small body for a good price**

WDC SCORE **89%** TESTED Special 05

£500 Estimated Street Price (£749 RRP)
Canon 350D

CMOS 8.3MP total, 8MP effective
LENS Canon EF/EF-S mount
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/4000sec & Bulb
ISO 100-1600
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, A-DEP, Auto, 5 Scene
FLASH Hotshoe, GN 13m (ISO 100)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/1.8in 115,000pixel LCD
OTHER CF I/II, 9 custom functions, USB 2.0, RAW +JPEG
POWER Rechargable Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 126.5 x 94.2 x 64mm/485g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Features, fast, performance, image quality
CONS LCD, some button placements
SUMMARY **Well designed and fast, it produces great results, good for semi-pros**

WDC SCORE **90%** TESTED May 2005

£520 Estimated Street Price (£700 RRP)
Nikon D70S

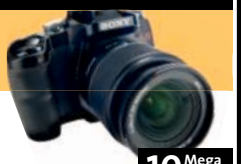
CMOS 6.1MP effective
LENS Nikon F mount/1.5x mag
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/8000sec
ISO 200-1600
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M + Auto, 6 Scene
FLASH Pop-up and TTL hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR TTL Optical/ 2in LCD
OTHER Custom functions, depth of field preview
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 140 x 111 x 78mm/600g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Speed, handling, image quality, remote control
CONS Occasionally weak yellow and blues, no PC socket
SUMMARY **Disappointing upgrade, but superb speed, features and images**

WDC SCORE **90%** TESTED July 2005

£550 Estimated Street Price (£599 RRP)
Sony Alpha



CCD APS-C 10.8MP, 10.2MPeff
LENS Alpha mount
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/4000sec
ISO 100-1600
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, 6 Scene, Mov
FLASH Hotshoe/Built-in GN12m
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Reflex/2.5in LCD
OTHER CF I/II, JPEG, RAW, Anti-dust, Dynamic Range optimiser
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 133.1 x 94.7 x 71.3mm/545g

10 Mega Pixels

PROS Image stabilisation, images, image noise control
CONS Shutter noise, slight oversaturation
SUMMARY **Some excellent features recommend Sony's first SLR effort**

WDC SCORE **87%** TESTED Aug 2006

£550 Estimated Street Price (£550 RRP)
Pentax K100 D

CCD APS-C CCD 23.5 x 15.7mm 6.3MP total/6.1MP effective
LENS DA Pentax K fit
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/4000sec+ B
ISO 200-3200
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, Auto, Sc, ±2EV
FLASH Built in/ Hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/ 2.5in
OTHER SD, JPEG, RAW, PictBridge
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 129.5 x 92.5 x 70mm/560g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Autofocus, build, noise control, stabilisation
CONS Underexposes the images, ugly menu, price
SUMMARY **Can produce the goods if you treat it with care**

WDC SCORE **83%** TESTED Nov 2006

£560 Estimated Street Price (£700 RRP) — Sony R1

CCD 10.3MP effective
LENS Carl Zeiss T* 24-120mm
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/2000sec
ISO 160-3200
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, A, S, M, Scene, Mov
FLASH Hotshoe/Pop-up/GN18.8.5m
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF, 2.0in LCD
OTHER CF I/II, MS Pro, USB 2.0, sRGB, Adobe RGB, vivid RGB
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 139 x 156 x 97mm/929g

10 Mega Pixels

PROS Excellent images, build and design
CONS LCD and EVF hard to see, slow burst, macro

WDC SCORE 88%

SUMMARY ***Great value; the best bridge camera on the market today***

TESTED Jan 2006

£630 Estimated Street Price (£699 RRP) — Nikon D80

SENSOR APS-C 10.8MP/10.2MP effective
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/4000 sec
ISO 100-1600 + Boost
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, AP, SP, M, Sc, ±5EV
FLASH Built-in/Hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Reflex/2.5in
OTHER CF I& II, JPEG, RAW, 3fps, Custom functions
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 132 x 103 x 77mm/585g

10 Mega Pixels

PROS Handling, controls, excellent image quality
CONS Need a fast PC to quickly open image files

WDC SCORE 91%

SUMMARY ***A worthy successor to the D70 and a cheaper alternative to the D200***

TESTED October 2006

£660 Estimated Street Price (£750 RRP) — Samsung GX-1S

CCD 6.3MP
LENS Pentax KAF bayonet mount
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/4000 sec, bulb
ISO 200-3200
EXPOSURE MODES AP, SP, P, M, 6 Scene modes
FLASH Hotshoe, integral
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Pentaprism, 96% view/2.5in
OTHER SD, RAW, JPEG
POWER AA Lithium, Alkaline, Ni-MH
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 125 x 92.5 x 67mm/505g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Excellent range of options, compact body
CONS Some exposure and focusing issues

WDC SCORE 85%

SUMMARY ***A good all-round shooter which won't make waves in the DSLR market***

TESTED June 2006

£710 Estimated Street Price (£900 RRP) — Olympus E-330

CMOS 7.5MP
LENS 4/3 mount
SHUTTER SPEED 60-1/4000 sec + B
ISO 100-1600
EXPOSURE MODES M, A, S, P, 20 Scene
FLASH Built in/ Hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Reflex/2.5in Flip-out LCD
OTHER CF I& II, xD JPEG, ORF, 3 fps, Live view LCD
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 140 x 87 x 72mm/550g

7 Mega Pixels

PROS Live viewing, overall handling, anti-dust
CONS Image noise over ISO 400, no PC socket

WDC SCORE 86%

SUMMARY ***The pull-out live-view LCD is the first of its kind and impressive***

TESTED Apr 2006

£760 Estimated Street Price (£1270 RRP) — Canon 20D

CMOS 8.5MP total, 8.2MP effective
LENS Canon EOS EF, EF-S
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/8000sec
ISO 100-3200
EXPOSURE MODES Auto, P, A, S, M, Scene
FLASH GN 12 @ISO 100
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/1.8in LCD
OTHER CF I/II
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 44 x 106 x 72 mm/770g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Good image quality, good spec, versatile
CONS Depth of field button awkward, clunky software

WDC SCORE 91%

SUMMARY ***Simply the best DSLR for the price on the market at the time of testing***

TESTED Dec 2004

£800 Estimated Street Price (£1200 RRP) — Canon EOS 30D

CMOS 8.2MP
LENS Canon EF Mount
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/8000sec/B
ISO 100-1600 (expanded 3200)
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, 6 Scene, Custom
FLASH Built-in/Hotshoe/PC
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Pentaprism/2.5in TFT
OTHER CF I&II, JPEG, RAW, 5fps, Picture Style
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 144 x 105.5 x 73.5mm/700g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Specs, build, low image noise, better LCD
CONS Images a little flat, handling, dof placement

WDC SCORE 87%

SUMMARY ***Good solid camera that shouldn't disappoint Canon users***

TESTED May 2006

£850 Estimated Street Price (£1000 RRP) — Panasonic LC1

CCD 4.92MP effective
LENS 28-90mm
SHUTTER SPEED 1/8-1/4000 sec
ISO 100,200,400
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M
FLASH GN 4m @auto/wide
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR EVF, 2.5in LCD
OTHER SD, RAW, USB 2.0, manual focus
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 82 x 135 x 103mm/630g

5 Mega Pixels

PROS Handling, LCD, flash, image quality
CONS Limiting ISO, EVF

WDC SCORE 90%

SUMMARY ***Fewer pounds than the Leica Digilux 2 for essentially the same camera***

TESTED June 2004

£700 Estimated Street Price (£1600 RRP) — Fujifilm S3 Pro

CCD 6.17 'S', 6.17 'R' MP, 12MP output
LENS Nikon F mount
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/4000sec & Bulb
ISO 100-1600
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M
FLASH PC socket, Hotshoe, Built-in
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/2in LCD
OTHER CF, xD, 2.5fps, RAW, JPEG, USB2.0, IEEE 1394
POWER 4x AA NiMH batteries, optional AC adaptor
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 47.8 x 135.3 x 78.5mm/815g

6 Mega Pixels

PROS Image quality, ease of use, sensor
CONS Software clunky, slow drive, small buffer

WDC SCORE 85%

SUMMARY ***It may be a slow operator, but image quality is superb***

TESTED Mar 2005

£1100 Estimated Street Price (£1299 RRP) — Nikon D200

CCD 10.2MP effective
LENS Interchangeable Nikon AF
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/8000sec
ISO 100-1600 + 1 stop boost
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M
FLASH Built in/Hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Reflex/2.5in
OTHER CF I/II, JPEG, Tiff, Nef, 5fps
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 147 x 113 x 74mm/830g

10 Mega Pixels

PROS Design, speed, handling, RAW files
CONS LCD brightness, JPEGS often need processing

WDC SCORE 90%

SUMMARY ***Very capable, offers lots of potential, geared to RAW rather than JPEG***

TESTED Feb 2006

£1250 Estimated Street Price (£1500 RRP) — Panasonic L1

SENSOR 4/3 Live MOS 7.9 total/7.4MP eff
SHUTTER SPEED 60-1/4000 sec
ISO 100-1600
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, Sc, ±2EV
FLASH Built in/Hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Reflex/2.5in
OTHER SD, JPEG, RAW, 3fps, Supersonic Wave, Mega OIS in lens
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 145.8 x 86.9 x 80mm/530g

7 Mega Pixels

PROS Fun handling, especially for traditionalists
CONS Still limited system at the moment

WDC SCORE 85%

SUMMARY ***Worth considering, particularly if you're new to automated cameras***

TESTED October 2006

£2000 Estimated Street Price (£2500 RRP) — Canon Eos 5D

CMOS 13.3MP/12.8MP effective
LENS Interchangeable
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/8000sec & B
ISO 100-1600
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M
FLASH PC socket, hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Optical/2.5in LCD
OTHER CF I/II, M, USB 2.0, sRGB and Adobe colour space
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 152 x 113 x 75mm/810g

13 Mega Pixels

PROS Well built, good features, speed of use, images
CONS Some fiddly controls, very faint edge fringing

WDC SCORE 91%

SUMMARY ***Superb camera producing big images, for semi-pros and enthusiasts***

TESTED Dec 2005

£2100 Estimated Street Price (£2500 RRP) — Nikon D2Hs

CCD 4MP effective JFET
LENS Nikon fit
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/8000sec & B
ISO 200-1600
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, ±5EV
FLASH Hotshoe
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Real size optical/2.5in LCD
OTHER CF, 9fps, RAW, TIFF, JPEG, USB 2.0
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 158 x 150 x 86mm/1150g

4 Mega Pixels

PROS Handling, image quality, system support, speed
CONS 4MP may not be enough

WDC SCORE 91%

SUMMARY ***Fast, fun and furious, however it only has a 4MP CCD***

TESTED Oct 2005

£2500 Estimated Street Price (£3050 RRP) — Canon Eos 1D MkII N

CMOS APS-C 28.7x19.1mm CMOS
LENS Canon EF
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/8000sec & B
ISO 100-1600 boost of 50 and 3200
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, Custom, Picture Style
FLASH Hotshoe/PC Sync
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Pentaprism 100% view/2.5in LCD
OTHER CF/SD, RAW, JPEG, 8.5fps, 48 frames JPEG, 20 RAW
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 156 x 158 x 86mm/1150g

8 Mega Pixels

PROS Build, image quality, fast, good buffer rate
CONS Expensive compared to competition

WDC SCORE 91%

SUMMARY ***Good camera, but update to original, so not really significant***

TESTED Mar 2006

£3200 Estimated Street Price (£3500 RRP) — Nikon D2XS

CMOS 12.2MP, 23.5 x 15.7mm CMOS
LENS Nikon mount
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/8000 sec, bulb
ISO 100-3200
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S,M, ±5EV
FLASH Hotshoe, PC socket
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Pentaprism, 100% view/2.5-inch
OTHER CF, RAW, JPEG
POWER Li-ion
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 158 x 150 x 86mm/ 1070g

12 Mega Pixels

PROS Build, image quality
CONS Single card slot, buffer memory could be faster

WDC SCORE 95%

SUMMARY ***A fine example of optical and digital technology combined***

TESTED Nov 2006

£4700 Estimated Street Price (£6000 RRP) — Canon Eos 1DS MkII

CMOS 16.7MP effective Full frame
LENS MOUNT Interchangeable EF mount
SHUTTER SPEED 30-1/8000sec & Bulb
ISO 100-1600
EXPOSURE MODES P, A, S, M, ±3EV
FLASH Hotshoe/ PC (X-sync)
VIEWFINDER/MONITOR Real size optical/2.0in LCD
OTHER SD, CFI&II, JPEG, RAW, JPEG+RAW
POWER Ni-MH pack
DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT 156 x 158 x 80mm/1215g

16 Mega Pixels

PROS Superb image quality, camera body design
CONS None really, but a larger LCD would be nice

WDC SCORE 96%

SUMMARY ***Quite simply, as good as it gets. Canon has another scorcher***

TESTED Apr 2005

The TOP lenses

Whether wide or tele, here is our pick of lenses

Wideangle zooms

£569 Street Price — Sigma 12-24mm

Name: Sigma EX 12-24mm f/4.5-5.6 DG HSM
Max Aperture: 4.5-5.6
Min Aperture: 22
Mount: Sigma, KM, Nikon, Pentax, Canon
Dimensions/Weight: 87x102.5mm/600g
Other: Digital full frame, rear filter
SUMMARY: *A remarkable lens for its quality and focal length*

WDC SCORE 90% Jun SUPP 2005

£289 Street Price — Canon 20-35mm

Name: Canon EF 20-35mm f/3.5-4.5 USM
Max Aperture: 3.5-4.5
Min Aperture: 32
Mount: Canon
Dimensions/Weight 83.5X68.9mm/340g
Other: USM, non digital
SUMMARY: *As an analogue lens this is a remarkable performer*

WDC SCORE 89% Jun SUPP 2005

D70 Kit Lens — Nikon 18-70mm

Name: Nikon AF-S 18-70mm f/3.5-4.5 G DX ED
Max Aperture: 3.5-4.5
Min Aperture: 32
Mount: Nikon
Dimensions/Weight 73x75mm/420g
Other: DX design for Nikon DX sensors
SUMMARY: *Well made digitally dedicated lens with great performance*

WDC SCORE 87% Jun SUPP 2005

£329 Street Price — Tamron 17-35mm

Name: Tamron SP 1F Di(IF) 17-35 f/2.8-4
Max Aperture 2.8-4
Min Aperture 22
Mount Canon, KM, Nikon, Pentax
Dimensions/Weight 83.2x86.5mm/430g
Other: APS Digital design, 77mm filter
SUMMARY: *Very good, solid performer and well made too*

WDC SCORE 87% Jun SUPP 2005

£449 Street Price — Konica Minolta 17-35mm

Name: Konica Minolta AF 17-35mm f/2.8-4 D
Max Aperture 2.8-4
Min Aperture 22-32
Mount KM AF
Dimensions/Weight 83 x 88.5mm/430g
Other: Non digital, 77mm filter
SUMMARY: *A non-digital lens that performs better from the middle of the focal range*

WDC SCORE 84% Jun SUPP 2005

£199 Street Price — Pentax 18-55mm

Name: Pentax DA 18-55MM f/3.5-5.6 AL
Max Aperture 3.5-5.6
Min Aperture 22
Mount Pentax KAF
Dimensions/Weight 83.5x69mm/420g
Other: Non digital,52mm filter
SUMMARY: *A capable lens with a good price, but some vignetting and edge sharpness problems*

WDC SCORE 84% Jun SUPP 2005

£100 Street Price — Sigma 18-50mm

Name: Sigma 18-50mm f3.5-5.6 DC
Max Aperture 3.5-5.6
Min Aperture 22
Mount Sigma, Nikon, Pentax, Canon, Olympus
Dimensions/Weight 74.1x84.1x88.5mm/430g
Other: APS Digital design,58mm filter
SUMMARY: *A budget digital lens with average performance*

WDC SCORE 81% Jun SUPP 2005

Standard zooms

£449 Street Price — Olympus 14-54mm

Name: Olympus Digital 14-54mm f2.8-3.5
Max Aperture 2.8-3.5
Min Aperture 22
Mount Olympus 4/3
Dimensions/Weight 73.5x87.5mm/435g
Other: Digital design, 58mm filter
SUMMARY: *Specifically designed for the 4/3 sensor, the lens ticks all the right boxes and is well made*

WDC SCORE 92% Jun SUPP 2005

£339 Street Price — Canon 28-135mm

Name: Canon EF 28-135mm f/3.5-5.6 IS USM
Max Aperture 3.5-5.6
Min Aperture 32
Mount Canon
Dimensions/Weight 78.4x96.8mm/540g
Other: Non digital, Image Stabilised72mm filter
SUMMARY: *Tough and durable, this non-digital lens doesn't disappoint*

WDC SCORE 90% Jun SUPP 2005

£270 Street Price — Sigma 17-70mm

Name: Sigma 17-70 f2.8-4.5 DC macro
Max Aperture 2.8 **Min Aperture** 32
Mount Konica Minolta, Sony alpha, Nikon, Canon, Pentax, Sigma
Dimensions/Weight 79x82.5mm/455g
Other: For APS-C sensor, 72mm filter
SUMMARY: *If you want to combine a quality standard with a macro lens, consider this*

WDC SCORE 88% JULY 2006

£269 Street Price — Tamron 28-75mm

Name: Tamron SP 28-75mm XR Di LD (IF) f/2.8 macro
Max Aperture 2.8
Min Aperture 22
Mount Nikon, Canon, KM, Pentax
Dimensions/Weight 73x92mm/510g
Other: Non digital,73mm filter
SUMMARY: *Digitally integrated macro lens and standard zoom with consistent results*

WDC SCORE 88% Jun SUPP 2005

£339 Street Price — Sigma 24-60mm

Name: Sigma EX 24-60mm f/2.8 DG Max Aperture 2.8
Min Aperture 22
Mount Nikon, Canon, Pentax, KM, Sigma
Dimensions/Weight 83.6x87.2mm/550g
Other: Full frame digital,77mm filter
SUMMARY: *Designed for full-frame sensors, but can be used with smaller APS. Good constant max aperture and reasonable images*

WDC SCORE 86% Jun SUPP 2005

£300 Street Price — Nikon 24-85mm

Name: Nikon AF-S 24-85mm f/3.5-4.5 G ED –IF
Max Aperture 3.5-4.5
Min Aperture 32
Mount Nikon
Dimensions/Weight 73x71mm/400g
Other: Non digital,67mm filter
SUMMARY: *For a non-digital lens it performs reasonably well but lacks definition in low-contrast conditions*

WDC SCORE 84% Jun SUPP 2005

£159 Street Price — Pentax 28-80mm

Name: Pentax FAJ 28-80MM f/3.5-5.6 AL
Max Aperture 3.5-5.6
Min Aperture 38
Mount Pentax KAF
Dimensions/Weight 63x67mm/180g
Other: Non digital,58mm filter
SUMMARY: *Pentax claims the lens works equally well with film or digital, and for the size and price is a credible performer*

WDC SCORE 84% Jun SUPP 2005

Telephoto zooms

£1549 Street Price — Nikon 80-200mm

Name: Nikon AF-S 80-200mm f/2.8
Max Aperture 2.8
Min Aperture 32
Mount Nikon
Dimensions/Weight 88x207mm/1580g
Other: Non digital,77mm filter
SUMMARY: *A top of the range lens bristling with quality. It's not cheap but if you want the best it's worth the price*

WDC SCORE 93% Jun SUPP 2005

£800 Street Price — Sigma 70-200mm

Name: Sigma 70-200mm f2.8 EX DG Macro HSM
Max Aperture: 2.8
Min Aperture: 22
Mount Sigma, Canon, Nikon (D)
Dimensions/Weight 86.6x184mm/527g
Other: Digitally optimised, 77mm filter
SUMMARY: *Expensive, but still cheaper than its main rivals. If you want speed, quality and versatility, this is a belter*

WDC SCORE 92% Sept 2006

£699 Street Price — Olympus 50-200mm

Name: Olympus Digital ED 50-200 f/2.8-3.5
Max Aperture 2.8-3.5
Min Aperture 22
Mount Olympus 4/3
Dimensions/Weight 87x157mm/1070g
Other: Digital optimised,67mm filter
SUMMARY: *A very good example of digital integration and improvement*

WDC SCORE 91% Jun SUPP 2005

£549 Street Price — Nikon 18-200mm

Name: Nikon AF-S DX Nikkor 18-200mm f/3.5-5.6 G IF-ED VR
Max Aperture 3.5-5.6 **Min Aperture** 32
Mount Nikon AF
Dimensions/Weight 77x96.5mm/520g
Other: DX format, 77mm filter
SUMMARY: *A digitally optimised lens offering massive reach in a small package. Ideal for travellers*

WDC SCORE 89% Jun 2006

£130 Street Price — Tamron 55-200mm

Name: Tamron 55-200mm f/4-5.6 Di II LD
Max Aperture: 4-5.6
Min Aperture: 32
Mount: Canon, Nikon, Konica Minolta, Sony
Dimensions/Weight 83x71.6mm/300g
Other: Non digital, 52mm filter
SUMMARY: *Limited features but, optically, gives high performance and a useful macro feature*

WDC SCORE 87% Oct 2006

£199 Street Price — Pentax 75-300mm

Name: Pentax FA-J 75-300mm f/4.5-5.6 AL
Max Aperture: 4.5-5.6
Min Aperture: 38
Mount: Pentax KAF
Dimensions/Weight 69x116mm/385g
Other: Non digital, 58mm filter
SUMMARY: *A prime example of why digital lenses should be used; very poor performance on digital cameras*

WDC SCORE 80% Jun SUPP 2005

£129 Street Price — Canon 80-200mm

Name: Canon EF 80-200mm f/4.5-5.6 II
Max Aperture 4.5-5.6
Min Aperture 29
Mount Canon
Dimensions/Weight 69x78.5mm/250g
Other: Non digital, 77mm filter
SUMMARY: *Canon's budget zoom is slow, with fringing frequently occurring*

WDC SCORE 79% Jun SUPP 2005

The TOP flash & scanners

Our pick of flashguns and film & flatbed scanners

Flashguns
illumination

£295 Street Price — Nikon Speedlight SB-800
GN 56m@105mm@ISO 100
Features: Bounce/180degree twist/24-105mm coverage/Wireless/FP mode
Compatibility: Nikon
SUMMARY ***Small but powerful flash***
WDC SCORE 93% DEC 2005

£300 Street Price — Metz 54 MZ-4i
GN 54m@105mm@ISO 100
Features: Bounce/180degree twist/24-105mm coverage/multiflash/FP mode
Compatibility: Olympus/Canon/KonMin/Nikon/Pentax
SUMMARY ***Big, powerful and sophisticated***
WDC SCORE 92% DEC 2005

£350 Street Price — Canon Speedlite 580EX
GN 58m@105mm@ISO 100
Features: Bounce/180degree twist/24-105mm coverage/Wireless/FP mode
Compatibility: Canon
SUMMARY ***105mm coverage GN58***
WDC SCORE 91% DEC 2005

£230 Street Price — Nikon Speedlight SB-600
GN 40m@85mm@ISO 100
Features: Bounce/180degree twist/28-85mm coverage/Wireless CLS/FP
Compatibility: Nikon
SUMMARY ***Affordable and adaptable unit***
WDC SCORE 90% NOV 2005

£200 Street Price — Canon Speedlite 430EX
GN 43m@105mm@ISO 100
Features: Bounce/180degree twist/24-105mm coverage/wireless EX/FP mode
Compatibility: Canon
SUMMARY ***Good features & performance***
WDC SCORE 90% NOV 2005

£330 Street Price — Konica Minolta P-Flash 5600 HS (D)
GN 56m@85mm@ISO 100
Features: Bounce/180degree twist/24-85mm coverage/wireless/ FP mode
Compatibility: Sigma/Canon/KonMin/Nikon/Pentax
SUMMARY ***Powerful, flexible and capable***
WDC SCORE 89% DEC 2005

£200 Street Price — Sigma EF-500 DG Super
GN 50m@105mm@ISO 100
Features: Bounce/180degree twist/28-105mm coverage/ wireless
Compatibility: Sigma/Canon/KonMin/Nikon
SUMMARY ***Superlative budget choice***
WDC SCORE 89% DEC 2005

£350 Street Price — Olympus FL50
GN 50m@85mm@ISO 100
Features: Bounce/180degree twist/24-85mm coverage/FP mode
Compatibility: Olympus
SUMMARY ***Bit pricey but well worth it***
WDC SCORE 87% DEC 2005

£170 Street Price — Olympus FL-36
GN 36m@85mm@ISO 100
Features: Bounce/180degree twist/24-85mm coverage/FP mode
Compatibility: Olympus 4/3
SUMMARY ***Great entrée to off-camera flash work***
WDC SCORE 86% NOV 2005

£120 Street Price — Sigma EF-500 DG ST
GN 50m@105mm@ISO 100
Features: Bounce/180degree twist/28-105mm coverage
Compatibility: Sigma/Canon/KonMin/Nikon/Pentax
SUMMARY ***Keen price, lacks some features***
WDC SCORE 86% NOV 2005

Flatbed
scanner

£179 Street Price — Epson V750
RESOLUTION 4800ppi/6400ppi Super Resolution
TRANSPARENCY UNIT Yes, 6400ppi
FEATURES USB 2/FireWire, Digital ICE
SUMMARY ***A slight improvement in image quality over the excellent V700***
WDC SCORE 92% AUG 2006

£179 Street Price — Canon 8400F
RESOLUTION 3200x6400ppi
TRANSPARENCY UNIT Yes
FEATURES Multi-photo scan, USB 2.0, FARE scratch removal *SUMMARY* ***Very fast and producing good-quality scans***
WDC SCORE 91% APRIL 2005

£380 Street Price — Epson 4990
RESOLUTION 4800x9400 ppi
TRANSPARENCY UNIT Yes
FEATURES Holders for 12 35mm strips, 4x mounted slides, 1x medium format, USB 2, Digital ICE
SUMMARY ***High standard of construction and excellent software***
WDC SCORE 91% MAR 2006

£199 Street Price — Epson 4490
RESOLUTION ppi
TRANSPARENCY UNIT Yes
FEATURES Holders for film up to 5x4, Silver Fast AE, PS Elements 2, USB 3, Digital ICE
SUMMARY ***Good results and verstatility, but not the cheapest on the block***
WDC SCORE 90% MAY 2005

£350 Street Price — Epson 4870
TYPE & RESOLUTION 4800x9600ppi
TRANSPARENCY UNIT Yes
FEATURES Full-width TPU, 24 film frames, 8 slides capacity, roll film, 5x4in, Digital ICE
SUMMARY ***Highest spec consumer scanner yet***
WDC SCORE 90% AUG 2004

£139 Street Price — Canon LIDE 80
TYPE & RESOLUTION 2400x4800ppi
TRANSPARENCY UNIT Yes
FEATURES Single-frame 35mm film scanning, CIS, USB2.0
SUMMARY ***Ultra-slim, fast and great results – WDC's Scanner of the Year 2003***
WDC SCORE 90% AWARDS ISSUE 2003

£129 Street Price — Canon LIDE 500F
TYPE & RESOLUTION A4 Flatbed, 1200x4800ppi
TRANSPARENCY UNIT Yes
FEATURES 1x35mm film scanning, FARE level 3, USB 2.0
SUMMARY ***This is another slim and space saving LiDE winner from Canon***
WDC SCORE 90% MAR 2006

£129 Street Price — Epson 2580
TYPE & RESOLUTION Flatbed, 2400x4800ppi
TRANSPARENCY UNIT Yes
FEATURES USB 2.0, colour restoration & dust removal
SUMMARY ***Well-specified model producing great results for a low price***
WDC SCORE 89% JAN 2005

£129 Street Price — Canon 8000F
TYPE & RESOLUTION 2400x4600ppi
TRANSPARENCY UNIT Yes
FEATURES Scans 12 35mm film frames, FARE dust and scratch removal, USB 2.0
SUMMARY ***Good all-rounder, no roll film support***
WDC SCORE 88% MAR 2003

£339 Street Price — Epson V700
TYPE & RESOLUTION 4800ppi
TRANSPARENCY UNIT 6400ppi
FEATURES USB 2.0/FireWire, Digital ICE
SUMMARY ***The V700's scans often surpass those of a dedicated film scanner***
WDC SCORE 92% MAY 2006

Film
scanner

£600 Street Price — Minolta 5400
FILM SIZE & RESOLUTION 35mm/5400ppi
FEATURES USB 2.0, Digital ICE4 dust and scratch removal included
SUMMARY ***Incredibly high resolution***
WDC SCORE 91% SEPT 2004

£300 Street Price — Minolta Scan Dual IV
TYPE 35mm/APS Film scanner
FEATURES USB 2.0, 3200PPI resolution
SUMMARY ***Price, speed and quality make it good for a medium number of scans***
WDC SCORE 90% AUG 2005

£549 Street Price — Epson F-3200
FILM SIZE & RESOLUTION Up to 5x4, 3200dpi/6400dpi with micro step
FEATURES USB 2, FireWire, 6X4 print scanning function
SUMMARY ***Great for multi format***
WDC SCORE 90% JUNE 2005

£800 Street Price — Microtek 4000TF
RESOLUTION 4000ppi
FILM SIZE 35mm
FEATURES USB, Firewire
SUMMARY ***SilverFast Ai Pro 6 software bundled***
WDC SCORE 90% OCT 2004

£2500 Street Price — Nikon LS9000
FILM SIZE & RESOLUTION 35mm and 6x9cm roll film/4000ppi
FEATURES Digital ICE4/ROC, Firewire
SUMMARY ***Multi-format film scanner***
WDC SCORE 89% AUGUST 2004

£2276 Street Price — Minolta Pro
FILM SIZE & RESOLUTION 35mm, 120/220 roll film up to 6x9cm/4800ppi
FEATURES Ultra SCSI, Firewire, Digital ICE3 dust and scratch removal
SUMMARY ***Capable of scanning roll film***
WDC SCORE 88% JULY 2004

£520 Street Price — Nikon Coolscan LS50
FILM SIZE & RESOLUTION 35mm / 4000ppi
FEATURES USB 2.0, Digital ICE4 dust and scratch removal
SUMMARY ***High resolution, fast and easy to use. Also known as the Coolscan V***
WDC SCORE 76% APRIL 2003

£1099 Street Price — Nikon LS5000
FILM SIZE & RESOLUTION 35mm/4000ppi
FEATURES 48-bit, 16-bit a/d, Digital ICE4 dust and scratch removal, USB 2.0
SUMMARY ***Very fast – 20 seconds per frame***

£400 Street Price — Microtek 3600
FILM SIZE & RESOLUTION 35mm/1800ppi
FEATURES USB, 36-bit
SUMMARY ***Simple manual feed film scanner for the budget-conscious***

£449 Street Price — Canon FS4000US
FILM SIZE & RESOLUTION 35mm, APS/4000dpi
FEATURES APS adapter included, FARE dust and scratch removal, SCSI and USB, accepts strips and slide mounts
SUMMARY ***Competitively priced. Includes APS option***

The TOP printers

Buying a printer? These are our picks

6"x4" printer

£100 Epson PictureMate 100

TYPE & RESOLUTION 6x4in Inkjet
FEATURES USB 2.0, 1.5in LCD, optional Bluetooth and battery pack, CF, SD, xD, MS Pro, MS
SUMMARY ***Good print quality, convenient, expensive for lots of pics but great for a few prints***
WDC SCORE 89% DEC 2005

£179 Epson PictureMate 500

TYPE & RESOLUTION 6x4in Inkjet/320 x 240dpi
FEATURES USB 2.0, optional Bluetooth and battery pack, CF, SD, xD, MS Pro, SM
SUMMARY ***One of the best, easiest and fast units. Versatile unit producing pleasing results***
WDC SCORE 88% SEP 2005

£130 Kodak PrinterDock 3

TYPE & RESOLUTION 6x4in dye sub
FEATURES USB 2.0, Bluetooth, IRDA, Kodak camera direct printing and recharging
SUMMARY ***Easy to use and quick to print with mobile phone compatibility***
WDC SCORE 86% MAR 2006

£150 Epson PictureMate

TYPE & RESOLUTION 6x4in Inkjet/Up to 5760 x 1440dpi
FEATURES Pictbridge compatible, direct printing from memory cards and Bluetooth option with adaptor
SUMMARY ***Good colours & sharpness, this compact option is cheap to run, but slow***
WDC SCORE 85% MAR 2005

£150 Samsung SPP2040

TYPE & RESOLUTION 6x4in dye-sub
FEATURES USB 2.0, CF I/II, SM, SD, MMC, MMS, xD, 2in LCD monitor
SUMMARY ***Attractive and easy to use though a bit expensive. Good for the average home user***
WDC SCORE 84% DEC 2005

£90 Lexmark P315

TYPE & RESOLUTION 4800x1200dpi
FEATURES Pictbridge, card slots for all current media cards, Jpeg only
SUMMARY ***Not the fastest or best, but simple, inexpensive and serviceable***
WDC SCORE 83% AUG 2005

£170 Canon DS700

TYPE & RESOLUTION 6 x 4 inch Inkjet/ up to 4800 x 1200dpi
FEATURES Card slots, Pictbridge compatible, includes infrared remote and uses a TV as a display monitor
SUMMARY ***Low-profile device that is easy to use with a TV. Print quality is on the warm side***
WDC SCORE 82% MAR 2005

£100 Sony DPP-FP55

TYPE & RESOLUTION 6 x 4 inch dye sub
FEATURES Card slots (Memory Stick and SD only), Pictbridge compatible
SUMMARY ***Good looking and small but few special features and with dull images***
WDC SCORE 82% NOV 2006

A4 Size printer

£200 Canon iP6000D

TYPE & RESOLUTION A4 Inkjet/1200 x 4800 dpi
FEATURES Card slots, Pictbridge-compatible, dual paper trays, CDR/DVD printing, infrared wireless port
SUMMARY ***Refined and versatile unit producing good quality prints***
WDC SCORE 90% FEB 2005

£400 Kodak Pro 1400

TYPE & RESOLUTION Thermal dye sub, 301dpi
FEATURES USB 2.0, 8x12, 8x10, A4
SUMMARY ***Expensive prints. Easy to use, producing good results with high protection and print life***
WDC SCORE 89% NOV 2005

£159 Canon iP5200

TYPE & RESOLUTION Inkjet, 9600 x 2400dpi
FEATURES Wireless option, five inks, PictBridge
SUMMARY ***Big, purposeful, very fast and very refined***
WDC SCORE 88% FEB 2006

£300 Epson R800

TYPE & RESOLUTION A4 Inkjet/Up to 5760x1440dpi
FEATURES 8 dye-based inks, eight tanks Extended gamut pigment photo inks
SUMMARY ***Pleasing print quality and solid build, although it isn't Pictbridge compatible***
WDC SCORE 88% MAR SUPP 2005

£330 Canon iP8500

TYPE & RESOLUTION A4 Inkjet/4800 x 2400dpi
FEATURES Pictbridge support, dual paper trays, integral duplex unit, CDR/DVD printing, USB 2.0
SUMMARY ***A fast device with excellent colour range and sharpness, however it isn't cheap***
WDC SCORE 87% MAR SUPP 2005

£100 Canon iP4200

TYPE & RESOLUTION A4 Inkjet/ 9600x400dpi
FEATURES Five inks, Pictbridge compatible, CD/DVD printing
SUMMARY ***A good choice if printing from cards isn't required***
WDC SCORE 88% FEB 2006

£100 Epson R240

TYPE & RESOLUTION A4 Inkjet/ 5760x1440dpi
FEATURES Four inks, PictBridge, built-in LCD, memory card slots
SUMMARY ***Another neat package from Epson at an attractive price***
WDC SCORE 87% FEB 2006

£100 Lexmark P915

TYPE & RESOLUTION A4 Inkjet/ 1200 x 4800dpi
FEATURES Long lasting Evercolor ink cartridge, Pictbridge compatible, Memory card slots
SUMMARY ***Great value, good fade-resistant photo prints, though could be faster***
WDC SCORE 85% FEB 2005

£170 HP 8150

TYPE & RESOLUTION A4 Inkjet/1200 x 4800dpi
FEATURES Memory card slots, Pictbridge compatible, optional Bluetooth and 10 x 15cm double sided prints
SUMMARY ***Range of features, however borderless printing is unsatisfactory***
WDC SCORE 84% FEB 2005

£250 HP 8450

TYPE & RESOLUTION A4 inkjet/4800 x 1200dpi
FEATURES Pictbridge compatible, Memory card slots, double- sided photo print adaptor
SUMMARY ***Relatively good value and easy to use, however it is relatively slow and large***
WDC SCORE 84% MAR SUPP 2005

A3 Size printer

£499 HP Photosmart Pro B9180

TYPE & RESOLUTION Inkjet, 4800x1200 dpi
FEATURES 8 HP Vivera inks over four cartridges, four card slots, USB 2.0, PictBridge
SUMMARY ***Fantastic print quality and 200 years' longevity thanks to new inks and papers***
WDC SCORE 93% May 2006

£500 Epson R2400

TYPE & RESOLUTION A3+ Inkjet, 5760x1400 dpi
FEATURES USB 2.0, Firewire, borderless printing possible, roll printing
SUMMARY ***Excellent print quality, good performance and attractive design***
WDC SCORE 90% OCT 2005

£330 on R1800

TYPE & RESOLUTION A3+ Inkjet 5760x1440 dpi
FEATURES Epson Ultra Chrome Hi-Gloss inks, PictBridge
SUMMARY ***Good performance at reasonable price, neutral gloss prints, matt prints dark***
WDC SCORE 89% OCT 2005

HP Photosmart 8750

TYPE & RESOLUTION Inkjet, 4800x1200dpi
FEATURES 9 HP Vivera inks inc HP 344 Tri-Colour, four card slots, USB 2.0, PictBridge
SUMMARY ***Operation is quiet and the price was good, although matt prints are too light***
WDC SCORE 88% OCT 2005

£550 Canon i9950

TYPE & RESOLUTION A3+ Inkjet/ 4800x2400dpi
FEATURES 8 Chroma Plus inks, eight tanks, USB 2.0, Firewire (Mac only), PictBridge
SUMMARY ***Very fast with good detail***
WDC SCORE 87% OCT 2005

Multi Function
all-in-one printer, scanner & copier

£249 Canon MP530

PRINTER 9600X2400dpi
SCANNER/OTHER 1200x2400ppi/copier/fax
INKS RGBK Dye+ K Pigment
SUMMARY ***A useful home office device but hardly photo quality***
WDC SCORE 82% AUGUST 2006

£159 Epson CX6400

PRINTER A4 Inkjet/ 5760dpi optimised
SCANNER/OTHER 1200x2400/copier
INKS Epson Durabrite pigment inks
SUMMARY ***A no-frills unit offering good value and good all round performance***
WDC SCORE 81% SEPT 2004

£299 Canon MP730

PRINTER A4 Inkjet/4800x1200dpi
SCANNER/OTHER 1200x2400ppi/copier/fax
INKS 3 colours and black
SUMMARY ***Impressive scanning but prints are disappointing. Well specified and good value, though***
WDC SCORE 80% SEPT 2004

£149 Canon MP370

PRINTER A4 Inkjet 4800x1200dpi
SCANNER/OTHER 1200x2400ppi/copier/ PictBridge
INKS 3 colours and black
SUMMARY ***A great looker and competitively priced but falls short in use. It has got PictBridge, though***
WDC SCORE 78% SEPT 2004

£200 Canon MP390

PRINTER A4 Inkjet/4800x1200dpi
SCANNER/OTHER 1200x2400ppi CIS A4 scanner, copier,fax
INKS 4 inks (black pigment, colour dyes) 2 tanks
SUMMARY ***With card and camera support this offers photo features along with the office functions***
WDC SCORE 77% JUNE 2004

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The TOP portable drives & software

Software to improve your images and the best storage devices

Portable Hard drives
Storage devices

£350 Street Price — Epson P400

DESCRIPTION 40GB Multimedia Viewer
PLATFORMS Windows/Mac
FEATURES 3.8in LCD, MP3, JPEG, RAW, TIFF, AAC, MPEG 4
SUMMARY ***The great screen and compatibility with Epson printers makes this a serious bit of kit***

WDC SCORE 92% FEB 2006

£179 Street Price — Addonics MFR CD Burner

DESCRIPTION CD burner/ DVDS player
PLATFORMS Windows
FEATURES Portable USB 2.0 CD burner, DVD playback
SUMMARY ***If only it had 5.1 Dolby sound this little portable player could replace your domestic DVD player***

WDC SCORE 92% AUG 2004

£100 Street Price — Kodak Easyshare Picture Viewer

FEATURES Portable image viewer
FEATURES 256MB hard drive, 2.5in LCD,
SUMMARY ***Simple to use, good price although the hard drive has a limited capactiy***

WDC SCORE 91% OCT 2005

£299 Street Price — Apacer Disc Steno CP-200

FEATURES Li-ion powered Portable CD burner with 24x read, 24x write, 10x re-write, USB 2.0. Quite large.
SUPPORTS CF Type I/II, SD, MMC, MS, SM
SUMMARY ***Back up to CDs on the road while the improved interface provides greater piece of mind***

WDC SCORE 91% JUL 2004

£400 Street Price — Jobo Giga Vue

DESCRIPTION Picture Viewer
PLATFORMS Windows, Mac
Features 40/60GB, USB 2.0, RAW support, 320 x 480 pixel screen
SUMMARY ***A touch-sensitive screen and RAW support are among the top features of this cool device***

WDC SCORE 87% APR 2005

£315 Street Price — Jobo Giga One

DESCRIPTION Multimedia Viewer
PLATFORMS Windows/Media
Features 20GB, 2in screen
SUMMARY ***Simple, effective and reasonably priced player that just works***

WDC SCORE 84% FEB 2006

£350 Street Price — Apple iPod Photo

DESCRIPTION 40/60GB Multimedia player
PLATFORMS Windows/Mac
FEATURES AAC, MP3, WAY, JPEG,AIFF, GIF, BMP, PNG,
SUMMARY ***Limited functions, with reliance on computer. Good music player, better functionality with iPod connector***

WDC SCORE 84% MAR 2005

£400 Street Price — Nikon Coolwalker

DESCRIPTION Photo player
PLATFORMS Windows/Mac
FEATURES CF slot, USB 2, 2.5in screen, JPEG, TIFF, NEF
SUMMARY ***Understandably Nikoncentric, but easy to use and quick to use and learn***

WDC SCORE 83% JULY 2005

£258 Street Price — Tatung Elio Photo Jukebox

DESCRIPTION MultiMedia player
PLATFORMS Windows/Mac
FEATURES 20GB, 3.5in LCD, JPEG, TIFF, MP3. SD, USB 2.0,
SUMMARY ***Small enough for your pocket but better suited for MP3s than photos***

WDC SCORE 80% APR 2005

£38 Street Price — PNY Attache Outdoor

DESCRIPTION USB Flash drive
PLATFORMS Windows/Mac
FEATURES 2GB, Outdoor model, USB 2.0
SUMMARY ***Quick to transfer files, with a capacity especially useful to DSLR users***

WDC SCORE 85% SEP 2006

Editing
software

€124 Street Price — DxO Optios Pro 3

DESCRIPTION Digital correction software and RAW processor
PLATFORM Windows/Mac
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.dxo.com
SUMMARY ***Works very well, is easy to use and good value***

WDC SCORE 92% Dec 2005

£522 Street Price — Adobe Photoshop CS2

DESCRIPTION Image-editing suite
PLATFORMS Mac OS X/Windows 2000/XP
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.adobe.com
SUMMARY ***The biggest and best version yet, with even more photographic tools***

WDC SCORE 91% JULY 2005

£60 Street Price — Ulead PhotoImpact 10

DESCRIPTION Image Editing Suite
PLATFORMS Windows 98SE, 2000, Me or XP
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.ulead.com
SUMMARY ***If you're looking for a cheaper rival to Photoshop, it could be what you need***

WDC SCORE 90% FEB 2005

£69 Street Price — Adobe Photoshop Elements 5.0

DESCRIPTION Image-editing suite
PLATFORMS Windows
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.adobe.co.uk
SUMMARY ***Great features and all the good bits of Photoshop CS without the hefty cost***

WDC SCORE 90% NOV 2006

£99 Street Price — Corel Paint Shop Pro XI

DESCRIPTION Image-editing suite
PLATFORMS Windows
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.corel.co.uk
SUMMARY ***Not a major improvement over PSP X but still offers a lot of value for money***

WDC SCORE 89% NOV 2006

Organising
software

FREE Beta — Adobe Lightroom beta

DESCRIPTION Raw Workflow and Organising
PLATFORMS Mac, Windows expected
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL http://labs.macromedia.com /technologies/lightroom
SUMMARY ***Still in Beta but very impressive thus far***

WDC SCORE 91% MAR 2006

FREE Street Price — Kodak Easyshare V6

DESCRIPTION Organising software
PLATFORMS Windows
DOWNLOAD FOR FREE http://www.kodak.co.uk
SUMMARY ***Most compact users will find all they need, plus advanced browsing features***

WDC SCORE 91% SEP 2006

£120 Street Price — iView Media Pro 3.0

DESCRIPTION Digital Asset Management
PLATFORMS Mac OS X/ Windows 2000/XP
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.iview-multimedia.com
SUMMARY ***Catalogues a wide variety of formats quickly and effectively, with useful new features***

WDC SCORE 87% FEB 2006

£113 Street Price — Extensis Portfolio 8

DESCRIPTION Digital Asset Management
PLATFORMS Mac OS X/ Windows XP
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.extensis.com
SUMMARY ***Powerful, fast and professional DAM system but complicated for home use***

WDC SCORE 86% MAR 2006

£59 Street Price — Apple Aperture

DESCRIPTION RAW Workflow and organising
PLATFORMS Mac OS X
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL No
SUMMARY ***Slick and fast, but let down by high cost and compatibility issues with older Macs***

WDC SCORE 85% March 2006

Plug-ins
software

£55 Street Price — Pixel Genius Photokit Sharpener

DESCRIPTION Image sharpening
PLATFORMS Windows / Mac
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.pixelgenius.com
SUMMARY ***Image sharpening workflow tool, from capture to output***

WDC SCORE 91% MAY 2004

£40 Street Price — Iridius PS Actions

DESCRIPTION Adobe Photoshop Actions
PLATFORMS Windows 2000/XP, Mac X
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.adobe.co.uk
SUMMARY ***For the busy photographer, the Iridus action set is a fantastic, time-saving life saver***

WDC SCORE 91% NOV 2004

£55 Street Price — Pixel Genius Photokit Colour

DESCRIPTION Colour tools and effects
PLATFORMS Windows 98 and up, Mac OS 9.1
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.pixelgenius.com
SUMMARY ***Time-saving software capable of a wide variety of excellent results***

WDC SCORE 90% MAY 2005

£99 Street Price — Real Viz Stitcher Express

DESCRIPTION Panorama creator
PLATFORMS Windows 2000, SP2, XP, Mac OSX, 10.2
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.realviz.com
SUMMARY ***Simple interface and powerful stitching at a reasonable price***

WDC SCORE 88% OCT 2005

£90 Street Price — Genuine Fractals 4.0

DESCRIPTION Superb fractal-powered enlargement plug-in
PLATFORMS Windows
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.dcpsystems.co.uk
SUMMARY ***Good results for anyone who wants to make large prints from their digital photographs***

WDC SCORE 88% SEP 2005

FREE Street Price — Pixmantec Raw Shooter Essentials

DESCRIPTION Raw image processor
PLATFORMS Windows/Mac
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.lizardtech.com
SUMMARY ***Powerful features, elegant and smart interface, missing some advanced tools***

WDC SCORE 88% OCT 2005

£149 Street Price — Vertus Fluid Mask 2.0

DESCRIPTION Cut-out plug-in
PLATFORMS Windows
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.vertustech.com
SUMMARY ***Sophisticated tool makes cut-outs easy to perform***

WDC SCORE 88% JUN 2006

£140 Street Price — Extensis Pixel Smart Scale

DESCRIPTION Tool for rescaling images up to 1600%
PLATFORMS Windows / Mac
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.extensis.co.uk
SUMMARY ***Enlarge images beyond their natural limits, with no loss of colour or quality***

£140 Street Price — Extensis Mask Pro

DESCRIPTION Professional cut outs around complex shapes
PLATFORMS Windows, Mac
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.extensis.co.uk
SUMMARY ***Complex masks, selections, clipping paths made easy. Perfect edges every time***

£100 Street Price — Nik Sharpner Pro

DESCRIPTION Pro image sharpening tool
PLATFORMS Windows/Mac
DOWNLOADABLE TRIAL www.nikmultimedia.com
SUMMARY ***Precise, controllable sharpening using a choice of criteria. Top-draw plug-in***

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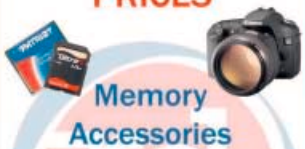

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The Last Word

'Pixel evangelist' Henry Reichhold, who recently completed a large-format exhibition taken exclusively on the Nokia 93 camera phone

How did you become interested in photography?
I picked up a camera at the age of 8 and never looked back.

What was your first camera?
Brownie 127

What do you use now?
Nokia N93 phone camera and a Canon 5D.

What will your next buy be?
An EF 85mm f1.2 lens.

Tell us about your digital darkroom set-up
Apple Mac and Phootshop.

Which photographers do you most admire and why?
Bill Brandt and Diane Arbus for the great narrative elements in their images.

What makes a good photograph?
It's not the quality of the print or the number of pixels that defines a good image, rather the content within it.

What's your *best ever photograph?*

This collage from my recent Nokia N93 exhibition challenges all pre-conceived ideas on low-resolution imaging. The final print was 2x3 metres printed out at 17dpi!

that counts. A scratched grainy out-of-focus print can be a work of art.

What's your favourite image taken by someone else?
Bill Brandt's 'East end girl dancing the Lambeth Walk'.

Advice for aspiring photographers?
Experiment, experiment, experiment.

Share a favourite photo tip
Look well ahead when out hunting for photographs. It gives you time to be in the best position for the shot.

Favourite movie
Spirit of the Beehive.

Unmissable TV show
The Simpsons.

The last CD you bought
Ray Charles.

Favourite novel
Island - Aldous Huxley.

Favourite photography book
Bill Brandt's Nudes.

Favourite meal
Alaskan King Crab.

Your perfect night in/out
Comedy show and a few beers...

Favourite places (UK and world)
Slapton Sands, Devon, Coromandel NZ.

People you most admire
Einstein and Leonardo Da Vinci.

Where were you born, and where do you live now?
New York, London.

What are your pet hates?
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WHAT DIGITAL CAMERA WINTER BUYER'S GUIDE 2006

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Photo *Accessories*
Now you've got your camera, you'll need some extra accessories. These are the latest lenses, flash units, tripods, camera bags and portable storage

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PHOTOKINA 2006

Editor's Note

Welcome to this, our guide to all the latest digital cameras and accessories shown at last month's Photokina show. Photokina is the world's biggest photographic exhibition, held in Cologne, Germany, every two years. This year's show attracted 160,000 visitors from 40 countries – everyone from the likes of Canon and Sony, to huge but largely unheard-of electronics factories from the Far East showing off their manufacturing skills, right down to small inventors and entrepreneurs looking for backers and distributors for their single Big Idea.

FEW SURPRISES

In the distant past we'd visit every Photokina show with little idea of what was going to be announced. Nowadays most new products are pre-announced beforehand, so there are few surprises at the show itself. But there are always one or two, and this year it was the Fujifilm S5 Pro digital SLR that really caught me by surprise. Only last month I speculated in the Letters page how interesting it would be to see the sensor from Fuji's outgoing S3 Pro in a top-quality body like the Nikon D200 – and that's exactly what the S5 Pro is.

The other big surprise came from Sigma. We knew the SD14 SLR was imminent, but what we didn't expect was for Sigma to also put that 14MP Foveon sensor into a compact camera. With that many pixels, and an SLR-sized sensor, the DP1, when it comes out next year, promises to offer image quality streets ahead of anything previously available on a compact.

These are just two of the exciting new products featured in this exclusive preview of the gear that will be occupying the shelves of the UK's photo retailers this winter. We look forward to testing it all over the next few issues.

THE *TEAM*

Editor - *Nigel Atherton*
Writers - *Natalie Hitchins*
Gavin Stoker
Design - *Michael O'Connell*
Production - *Viv Craske*

Photokina Report

After visiting the world's largest dedicated imaging event, we give you a sneak peek at the hot new products you can expect to be stocking up on in coming months

From 46 countries they came; a 1600-strong army representing the great and the good of the imaging world descended upon Cologne back in September to present the global imaging sector's top new products at the bi-annual Photokina show. And what a show it was! For those not in the know, Photokina is the world's largest dedicating imaging event, and the one place guaranteed to set pulses racing in anticipation of the hot new products consumers can expect to see in shops over coming months.

Attracting 160,000 visitors from over 40 countries, Photokina is a must-see event for distributors, retailers and enthusiasts the world over – and naturally team WDC was out in force. Joining our esteemed ranks were major players from every imaging market this side of Japan. From Canon to Cokin, Nikon to Nero, few big names were left unrepresented, and while a handful of sadly now-deceased stalwarts such as Konica Minolta were absent, a clutch of first-time exhibitors including Apple and CeWe were on hand to help accurately reflect the shape of today's global imaging landscape.

SURPRISE, SURPRISE

Ever anxious to scoop their rivals' product announcements, news of headline products arrived thick and fast in the run-up to Photokina – regular readers will have noticed the influx of pre-Photokina announcements presented in WDC's pages in our October and September issues. True technological surprises were therefore the real head turners at this year's show and big shout-outs go to Fuji, Olympus, Sigma and Apple for providing true first looks at products.

RISE OF THE DIGITAL SLR

Among our top picks is the Fuji S5 Pro, a long-awaited successor to the S3 and a camera that WDC has long been lobbying for. In an industry where nothing stays a secret for long, Fuji was triumphant at the shock value of its new product – not least because all credible rumours quoted an 'S4 Pro' as the SLR we should be waiting for. Spurning this natural titular progression, the manufacturer not only felt that the technology inside the 12MP beast represented more than a one-step leap, but more intriguingly, in Fuji's country of origin the number four is traditionally linked to bad luck and death.

Not quite as unexpected thanks to a tantalising teaser site but interesting nonetheless, was a pre-production sample of Sigma's equally long-awaited SD14 SLR. This 14MP monster, in conjunction with a first glimpse of Olympus's upcoming Pro 1 successor, were further positive signs that while a small number of companies may still dominate the SLR scene, choice and competition still reign free

in this rapidly growing corner of the marketplace. With this in mind, Sony, Leica and Panasonic gave pride of place on their stands to their respective recent SLR releases. APS-C remains the dominant sensor format, and it should come as no real surprise that a corresponding 10MP imaging power has been cemented as the benchmark resolution for consumer models. Meanwhile, the Four-Thirds system took big strides in catching up with more-established systems thanks to major lens and body releases from Panasonic, Olympus and Leica.

SMALL BUT PERFECTLY FORMED

Despite the continued rise of the SLR, things proved far from quiet on the compact front. In addition to first looks at pre-announced new line-ups from Canon, Olympus, Panasonic and Nikon et al, we were treated to an unprecedented 14MP SLR-grade compact from Sigma (the DP1), an updated Fuji F30 featuring face-detection technology and a fresh Superzoom courtesy of Kodak. With many more manufacturers exhibiting compact offerings, point-and-shoot functionality remains a growth area that continues to impress. Key trends remain longer lenses and (yawn) greater megapixel power, but manufacturers growing wise to the public's desire for meatier features showed commitment to advances in image-stabilisation, face detection, low-light functionality, and 'beautifying' software such as HP's now-infamous slimming mode.

THE BEST OF THE REST

Of course there's also plenty to look forward to outside of the camera arena this Christmas. From USB drives, memory cards and storage viewers to camera phones, printers and cleaning products, Photokina was as much about peripherals as shooting hardware.

Epson and Canon wowed the crowds with new storage viewers ranging from 30 to 80Gb in capacities, with shiny new 4 and 3.7inch LCD screens to match. HP showed it was still king of the large-format printing market with the introduction of two Z series models with built-in spectrophotometer, while Canon reigned in the consumer end of the market with a shelf full of sexy new Pixmas and Selphys.

At either end of Photokina software centre, Adobe and Apple made simultaneous announcements of upgrades to their respective pro photography apps. Apple Aperture 1.5 is now on sale while Adobe's renamed Photoshop Lightroom Beta continues to hold great promise in its fourth free incarnation. With many more hundreds of products besides making their debut, it's little wonder that this year's show was the largest in its 56-year history, which is why've we've put together this 32-page guide to the key products to put in your shopping bag this Christmas. Enjoy!

PHOTOKINA *TOP FIVE*

Our pick of the show's most interesting gear

Fujifilm *S5 Pro*

A Nikon D200 body with Fuji's SuperCCD? Sounds tasty! **Page 10**

Canon *50mm f/1.2*

Super-wide max aperture is a dream for low-light work **Page 15**

Leica *M8*

Finally a digital M-Series Leica – and it looks like a stonker. **Page 12**

Tamron *18-250mm*

The biggest zoom ratio of any DSLR lens in the world **Page 15**

Sigma *DP1*

Its 14MP DSLR sensor should knock the socks off rivals **Page 23**

Photokina DSLRs

2006 will be remembered as the year of the digital SLR

The forthcoming Finepix S5 Pro, revealed for the first time at Photokina, was the 18th digital SLR to debut this year. Not only has 2006 seen more new DSLRs than ever before, some major new players have entered the market for the first time. Sony, Panasonic and Samsung are out to prove that there's no reason why the big electronics brands can't win over the hobbyist SLR buyer in the same way that they've already done with the point-and-shoot compact buyer. Sony in particular has set itself very aggressive market share targets. And, while far from new to SLRs, Leica has finally revealed a digital model in the form of its Digilux 3.

So, you ask, are these new SLRs all 'me too' cameras, or are there significant points of difference between them? The unhelpful answer is: both. The three Samsung SLRs in particular differ from the three Pentax models in name only – they're otherwise identical.

The same can almost be said for the Panasonic L1 and the Leica Digilux 3 – though there are minor cosmetic and (we're told) firmware tweaks separating them.

On the other hand there's a wide variety of design philosophies and feature sets to choose from, which should ensure that there is a perfect camera out there for almost every buyer.

CHOOSING *A DSLR*

For 35mm SLR owners switching to digital, the choice of brand is relatively easy. If you already have an investment in lenses and accessories from, say, Canon or Nikon, it's tempting to stick with that brand to save the cost of having to buy replacements. In fact, lenses designed for 35mm won't always produce the best results on digital SLRs, so you may want to upgrade at some point; but at least you can defer the cost of doing so, and you may find you don't need to. On the other hand you may want to take the opportunity to start again from scratch and take full advantage of all the new technology. In which case you'll be in the same boat as digital-compact upgraders and others completely new to SLRs. So how do you choose?

The very first decision should be to set a budget. Is £500 your limit, or could you go to £800, or perhaps even £1,000? This will narrow the field considerably. Decide whether you'll need the extra resolution offered by having more megapixels. If A4 will be your maximum likely print size then 6-8MP may be sufficient. Many of the features found in more expensive mid-range DSLRs are aimed at the most discerning users who want precise control over the entire imaging process. If this sounds like you, then you should look to invest in one of these. Whatever your needs, do not buy a DSLR without going into a dealer and handling it, ideally comparing it against competing cameras. This is where bricks and mortar retailers really score over online-only sellers. If you go to a photo specialist they'll probably be better able to answer any questions you may have about the cameras you're handling.

Switching DSLR systems can be very costly, so before buying into a system it's important to handle the camera to see if you like it

TRENDS

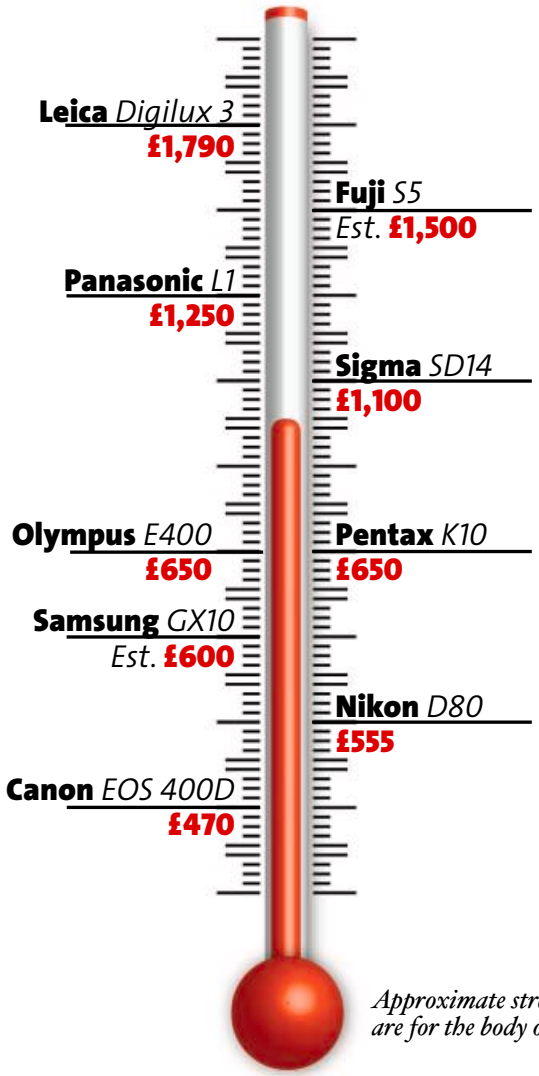
During 2006 a few key trends in SLR evolution have emerged. First, while a couple of years ago almost all consumer DSLRs had six-megapixel sensors, the magic number for 2006 is ten. The Nikon D200, launched at the tail-end of last year, was the first non-professional SLR to break double figures, and since then it has been joined by numerous others.

This year the camera industry also declared war on camera shake. Canon and Nikon have for some time produced lenses with built-in Image Stabilisation/Vibration Reduction (the names differ but the effect is the same). These lenses feature a 'floating' optic which counteracts shake and gives the user about three extra stops to play with. Panasonic has featured a lens-based 'Mega OIS' (Optical Image Stabilisation) in its fixed lens cameras for years, so it's no surprise that it has also gone for a lens-based solution in the new Lumix L1 DSLR. Which, of course, means that the Leica Digilux 3 also has it.

Other manufacturers, aware that Image Stabilisation is a major selling point, have now started to offer their own versions. It's no surprise that Sigma – a major lens manufacturer – has chosen an optical solution for its new SD14. Others, meanwhile have decided to go with a sensor-based solution. The advantage of having the sensor move rather than the lens is that it will work with every lens, rather than the user having to buy particular, and more expensive, IS/VR lenses (though there is a question mark over whether sensor-based solutions are as effective as lens-based ones). In any event, Sony inherited a sensor-based anti-shake system when it took over the Konica-Minolta brand, and now Pentax/Samsung has also joined the party with its own sensor-driven solution.

Speaking of moving sensors, another big trend in DSLRs is dust-removal systems. If dust gets on the sensor when lenses are changed it will appear on the pictures. How big a problem this presents is a matter of debate, but it has caused enough concern among buyers for the manufacturers to do something about it. Sigma and Olympus were ahead of the pack here. Sigma uses a dust filter inside the lens throat (like on-board double glazing), while Olympus built a vibrating sensor into its E-system from inception, which shakes off the dust when the camera is switched on, rather like a dog shaking itself when it gets out of the river. This method has since been adopted by other manufacturers, including Sony and Pentax/Samsung. In fact, Nikon is now the only brand without a dust-removal system in any of its cameras, though this doesn't seem to have harmed sales of its cameras.

The new DSLRs *at a glance*



Approximate street prices are for the body only.

Round-up *of the new DSLRs*

Canon *EOS 400D* **£470** (body only)

The EOS 400D is Canon's replacement for the EOS 350D, the world's biggest-selling digital SLR. Superficially it looks almost the same, with the most noticeable change being the much larger 2.5-in LCD screen. It's still one of the smallest and lightest cameras on the market (though no longer *the* smallest). Inside, there are more points of difference, the main ones being a 10.1-megapixel CMOS sensor and an anti-dust feature (a first for Canon) called EOS Integrated Cleaning System. This tackles dust in several ways: by using high-frequency vibrations to shake dust from the low-pass filter on start-up; by the use of anti-static coatings on the low-pass filter (which covers the sensor); and by mapping any stubborn dust and removing it using Canon's included DPP software. The EOS 350D camera sold so well – and Canon's hold on the SLR market is so strong – that, frankly, the 400D would have to be a very bad camera indeed not to sell in the tens of thousands. Bearing in mind Canon's proven pedigree in this market, there's little chance of that.

Fujifilm *Finepix S5 Pro* **£TBC**

Fujifilm didn't actually launch the S5 Pro at Photokina, they just showed it off and told us it was on its way. It probably isn't what they wanted to do but they had no choice – if they'd waited till next spring (which is when it should be ready for launch) many of their potential buyers would have bought a Nikon D200, or perhaps something else, in the meantime. The S3 Pro was a good camera with an outstanding sensor. What it needed was a body worthy of that six-megapixel Super CCD, with its wide dynamic range and 12MP output. Now it has one, because Fuji has traded in that old Nikon F80 body for a D200 shell. Now we're talking. The thing everyone is asking, though, is why they've used the same sensor instead of designing a higher-resolution one. It isn't as if they haven't had time since the S3. Fuji will argue that the S3's sensor was already outstanding enough.

Leica *Digilux 3* **£1,790**

This is Leica's first purely digital SLR (there is an optional digital back for its R8) and its first to adopt the Four-Thirds standard, rather than its own R-series mount. Bearing more than a passing resemblance to the M series, the Digilux 3 is a perfect marriage of the classic with the hi-tech, with features such as a 7.5MP LiveMOS sensor and optical image stabilisation, and the Leica Vario–Elmarit 14-50mm f/2.8-3.5 ASPH lens retaining traditional manual setting rings for aperture, zoom and focusing. Although brimming with high-quality components, the most expensive part of the Digilux 3 is the red circle on the front – the Leica badge is pretty much all that separates it from the £300-cheaper Panasonic L1, as the camera was a joint development between the companies and has been released by both brands. However, Leica afficionados are unlikely to be deterred by such things.

Nikon *D80* **£555** (body only)

Nikon's new D80 combines the basic body design and handling of its hugely successful D70 with some of the high-end features of its mid-range, blockbusting D200. There's a 10MP sensor, 11-point focusing, 3D colour matrix metering, D-Lighting (for dynamic range control), a large bright 0.94x viewfinder, and an extensive system that includes a battery grip and Nikon's highly impressive iTTL flash system. The result is a pretty compelling camera with very few flaws. Compared to some of its rivals it lacks built-in image stabilisation and dust-removal features, but the former is available in its 'VR' lenses (which Nikon would argue is better than sensor-based solutions) and the latter is simply not the issue, argues Nikon, that some manufacturers make out. What you do get is a solid, well-designed camera that delivers high-quality results.

Olympus *E-400* From £650 (body only)

If the size and bulk of digital SLRs is holding you back from buying one, then take a look at the new Olympus E-400. We thought the Canon EOS 350D was small but the E-400 beats it, making it the world's smallest digital SLR. And so it should be really. The Four-Thirds sensor is smaller than those used by rivals, and smaller cameras is one of the benefits touted by Olympus when it launched the system, but it has taken till now to deliver on that. So after the brick that was the disastrous E-300, Olympus now has a worthy successor to its little OM series SLRs that were so popular in the 1970s. The E-400 is a beauty. Despite being smaller than many fixed-lens bridge cameras, it feels very well balanced in the hand. It's no slouch in the features department either, starting with its 10-megapixel CCD. Its menu has two modes – beginner and advanced – so it can cater for a wider potential audience. Whichever you choose, you get 31 shooting modes, 49-segment digital ESP metering, 3fps continuous shooting and access to some cracking lenses.

• *Olympus also showed a very early, non-working prototype of what will become the replacement for its professional E1 camera, which is due to be launched in the first half of next year. However, as yet it has no name, and no specifications have been revealed.*

Panasonic *L1* £1,250

Panasonic had no pedigree in photography when they started making cameras, but that hasn't stopped them from producing some of the best compacts around. Digital SLRs are a different proposition though, and it's here that you can clearly see the influence of its partner-in-crime, Leica. The Panasonic-Leica relationship has been a match made in heaven for both parties. Panasonic has cutting-edge electronics technologies and vast manufacturing resources, while Leica (who pretty much invented 35mm photography) has the high-end photographic and optical know-how. That's perhaps why the L1 looks like an enlarged Leica M-series camera, with its flat, prism-free top and rounded sides. This is clearly a niche camera aimed at a small potential audience (it's very expensive for a start) but, as a statement of capability and intent, it does the job for Panasonic. As for the specifications, check out the Leica Digilux 3 (on page 10) – it's virtually the same camera.

Pentax *K10D* £650 (body only)

Pentax has been splashing around in the shallow end of the DSLR market for some time, with a succession of budget models, so the K10D is long overdue. This is Pentax's most ambitious digital camera, with several innovative features not found anywhere else. The K10D is a 10MP model with a CCD-based shake-reduction feature, 22-bit processing and a professional-level feature-set. These include an interesting Shutter/Aperture Priority Mode, in which the user selects the required aperture and shutter speed and the camera adjusts the ISO accordingly. There's also Dust Reduction (a vibration-based system), ISO up to 3200, 11-point AF and an extended auto-bracket function that includes contrast, saturation and sharpness as well as exposure. All this is in a dustproof, water-resistant body that's much heavier and more robust than their existing bodies. Here is a Pentax that means business.

Samsung *GX10* £TBC

If you read the specs for the Pentax K10D then you'll get a strong sense of *déjà vu* with the GX10. It's basically the same camera, with a different badge. Which one you'd buy will depend on your feelings towards the two brands and the relative deals being offered. It's expected that older, traditional photographers will favour the Pentax, while younger, more gadget-savvy, buyers will be drawn more to the Samsung name. Either way you'll get the same 10MP sensor and pro-spec build quality as the Pentax, plus a range of Schneider lenses to choose from. Of course all Pentax lenses will fit too, though the optical quality of the German-designed Schneiders should, on paper, be more than a match for them. Whether you choose Pentax or Samsung, the GX10 re-affirms Samsung's intention to stake its claim on the DSLR market and a serious desire to take a sizeable slice of the pie for itself.

Sigma *SD14* £1,100

Better known for its lenses, Sigma has ploughed a very different furrow with its DSLRs. Unlike the CCD sensors used by most manufacturers, or the CMOS preferred by Canon, Sigma uses the unique Foveon X3 sensor, which features three layers of pixels – red, green and blue – embedded in silicon, which, unlike other sensors, enables each pixel to record all three primary colours, instead of just one. Sigma's third DSLR, the SD14, raises the pixel count to 14 million, although this can't be compared directly with other cameras because of the way they're used. But let's not get into the whole 'I've got more pixels than you' debate – just looking at the beautifully detailed poster prints on Sigma's Photokina stand confirms that the SD14 has more than enough. Sigma's previous DSLRs were criticised for their lack of a JPEG option, making a shoot-and-go approach impossible. The SD14 now has a JPEG option, though you still can't shoot them simultaneously with RAWs. The body is less boxy and clunky, and more sophisticated. Sigma are starting to get the hang of this camera-making lark.

LEICA *M8*

Not actually an SLR at all. The M8 is a rangefinder camera, but there was nowhere else to put it (since it's the only one of its kind) and it does at least offer interchangeable lenses. Leica's M-series of 35mm cameras are beloved of photojournalists and well-heeled connoisseurs the world over, who are pretty much the main target audience for this new digital version. The M8 is basically a digital M7, but Leica has done well to maintain the sense of craftsmanship and that unique M-series feel. In fact, until you look at the back and see an LCD screen in place of the usual film box-end holder, you could easily forget that you're holding a digital camera. The other giveaway is the discreet round LCD frame number display in place of the rewind crank. The M8 boasts a 10MP sensor too, but not an off-the-shelf one. Made by Kodak, it features special micro-lenses over each pixel, each angled perpendicularly to the light hitting it from the back of the lens. This saved Leica having to produce a new range of lenses and enables users to fit any existing M-series lens without loss of image quality. There are lots of other well-thought-out features too, but then you'd expect it to impress, at £3000 just for the body.

MONEY *NO OBJECT*

If you're looking for the highest possible resolution, and money is no object, then you might want to consider a 'medium format' DSLR. Based on professional film SLRs that used 120 roll film, this is a sector that's set to grow significantly. King of this particular jungle has always been Hasselblad, whose film cameras went to the moon with Neil Armstrong. Hasselblad came late to digital but have been leading the way ever since. At Photokina they launched the **Hasselblad H3D (below)**, which uses a sensor measuring 48 x 36mm – the biggest currently available on a digital camera and more than twice the size of a full-frame 35mm sensor. The camera is available in two guises: the H3D-22, which has 22 million pixels, and the H3D-39, which has 39 million. They cost a cool £16,000 and £20,000 respectively.
Or you could wait for the Pentax 645 Digital, a pixel-based version of its popular 645 film SLR which is due for release sometime in the not-too-distant future (sorry, that's as specific as it gets). Pentax showed a pre-production version at Photokina with an 18MP sensor, though they say it will eventually be capable of 30MPs. No price has yet been suggested, but it's sure to be a lot less than the Hasselblad.

Other SLRs *launched in 2006*

Canon *EOS 30D*
Bigger and tougher than the 400D. But the 400D is higher-resolution and cheaper, making it a more attractive buy for many people.

Nikon *D2Xs*
If you've got £3500, many regard Nikon's new 12MP flagship as a near-perfect camera.

Pentax *K100D*
A 6MP camera which feels a bit cheap but has some good features for the price (eg. anti-shake).

Pentax *K110D*
Like the K100D without anti-shake, it still boasts a reasonable spec, and is cheaper than its brother.

Samsung *GX1S*
Samsung's first digital SLR may be a re-badged Pentax, but it offers a good-value package.

Samsung *GX1L*
A cheaper version of the GX1S, but with a similar spec: 6MP, 11-point AF, 16-segment metering, 2.8 fps, 2.5" LCD, ISO 3200, and Schneider lenses.

Olympus *E-330*
The only DSLR with a tilt-and-swivel LCD with live-view, so you can preview as well as review.

Olympus *E-500*
Slightly bigger and less sexy than the new E-400 but good nonetheless, and competitively priced.

Sony *Alpha 100*
Sony's debut DSLR has everything but the kitchen sink: 10MP, anti-shake, dust removal, and the exciting option of Carl Zeiss lenses.

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30D + 17-85 . . . . £1099
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400D body £499
400D + 18-55 . . . . £549

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60 F2.8 Mac USM . . £309

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20-35 F3.5/4.5 . . . . £299
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24 F2.8 . . . . . £319
24 F3.5 L TSE £899
24-70 F2.8 L £889
24-85 F3.5/4.5 U . . . £249
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28-105 F3.5/4.5 U II . . £199
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35 F1.4 L USM . . . £949
45 F2.8 L TSE £899
50 F1.2 L USM . . £1149
50 F1.4 USM £249
50 F1.8 II £79
50 F2.5 Macro £199
55-200 F4.5/5.6 II . £129
65 MPE F2.8 . . . . . £719
70-200 F2.8 IS L . £1299
70-200 F4 L IS U . . £989
70-200 F4 L £469
70-300 F4.5/5.6
DO IS USM £839
70-300 IS U £399
75-300 USM MKIII . £149
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85 F1.8 USM £279
90 F2.8 L TSE £899
90-300 F4.5/5.6 U . . £199
90-300 F4.5/5.6 . . . . £139
100 F2 USM £329
100 F2.8 Mac USM . . £399
100-300 F4.5/5.6 U . . £269
100-400 IS L U . . . £1089
135 F2 L USM £709
180 F3.5 L Mac . . £1029
200 F2.8 II L £529
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300 F4 L IS U . . . £1079
400 F2.8 IS L . . . £5199
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NIKON

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24-120 AF-S VR G . £439
28-70 F2.8 AFS . . £1199
28-105 F3.5/4.5 . . . £319
50 F1.4 AF-D £220
50 F1.8 AF-D £99
60 F2.8 Micro AF-D . . £349
70-200 F2.8 VR . . £1199
70-300 F4.5/5.6 VR . £399
70-300 AFG Blk . . . £119
80-400 VF AFD . £1079
85 F1.4 AFD £799
85 F1.8 AF-D £340
105 F2.8 VR £549
105 F2.8 AF-D £449
200 F2 G £2599
200-400 F4 VR . . £4299
300 F4 AF-S £869
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15-30 F3.5/4.5 EX . . £279
17-35 F2.8 EX DG . £319
17-70 F2.8/4.5 DC . £239
18-50 F2.8 DC . . . £269
18-50 F3.5/5.6 DC . . £99
18-125 F3.5/5.6 . . . £199
18-200 F3.5/6.3 DC . £239
20 F1.8 EX DG . . . £299
24 F1.8 EX DG . . . £269
24-60 F2.8 EX DG . £299
24-70 F2.8 EX DG . £299
24-135 F2.8/4.5 . . . £279
28 F1.8 EX DG . . . £229
28-70 F2.8 EX DG£229
28-135 F3.8/5.6 . . £119
28-200 F3.5/5.6 DG . . £169
28-300F3.5/6.3DG . £199
30 F1.4 EX DC . . . £299
50 F2.8 EX DG . . . £199
50-150 F2.8 EX DC . £499
50-500 F4/6.3 DG . £719
55-200 F4/5.6 DC . £109
70 F2.8 macro £339
70-200 F2.8 DG mac . £679
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67mm	£32	£99
72mm	£37	£109
77mm	£49	£119
82mm	£59	£129
86mm	£79	£139
95mm	£109	£159
105mm	£139	£199

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300 F2.8 AF-S VR . . . £3149

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55mm	£12	£27	£27	£67	£16
58mm	£13	£28	£31	£69	£19
62mm	£18	£32	£41	£79	£22
67mm	£21	£36	£48	£86	£27
72mm	£26	£40	£49	£118	£34
77mm	£32	£45	£60	£130	£43
82mm	£45	£51	£79	£175	£59
86mm	£57	-----	£94	-----	-----

WANTED
CANON, NIKON, MINOLTA (especially 300mm, 400mm & 500mm etc lenses) BRONICA, PENTAX 67/645, MAMIYA, HASSELBLAD... cameras, lenses etc for part exchange or cash. collection can be arranged.

CANON EOS 400D body **£499** 400D + 18-55mm **£549**

CANON EOS 30D body **£749** 30D + 17-85mm **£1099**

CANON EOS 1DS MkII body **£4499**

CANON 300mm f2.8 L IS U **£3199**

CANON 500mm f4 L IS U **£4299**

NIKON D200 body D200 + 18-70mm **£1219** **£1049**

NIKON D80 body D80 + 18-70mm **£799** **£599**

NIKON D2Xs body IN STOCK **£2749**

NIKON 17-55mm f2.8 DX **£899**

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DSLR Lenses

There was a flurry of new lenses at Photokina, covering a range of focal lengths from 14mm wideangle to 800mm telephoto. Among the most interesting is the new Tamron 18-250mm, which with a 13.9x offers the highest zoom magnification of any DSLR lens in the world. Canon's new 50mm lens boasts a super wide f/1.2 maximum aperture, making it a dream lens for low-light photography.

The launch by Carl Zeiss of four lenses for the Nikon mount is also intriguing. Up to now Zeiss, one of the best lens marques in the world, has worked exclusively with Sony in the DSLR arena.

The Four-Thirds system did well out of Photokina too, with eight new lenses. Here's a run-down of what's coming to a retailer near you.

Canon *EF 50mm f/1.2L USM*
Mounts: Canon
Price: £1149
Availability: Nov

Canon *70-200mm f/4L IS USM*
Mounts: Canon
Price: £990
Availability: Oct

Leica *16-18-21mm Tri-Elmar-M f/4 ASPH*
Mounts: Leica M
Price: £2200
Availability: tbc

Leica *25mm f1.4 D SUMMILUX ASPH*
Mounts: Four-Thirds
Price: £tbc
Availability: tbc

Leica *28mm f/2.8 Elmarit-M ASPH*
Mounts: Leica M
Price: £920
Availability: tbc

Olympus *14-42mm 1:3.5-5.6*
Mounts: Four-Thirds
Price: tbc
Availability: tbc

Olympus *40-150mm 1:4.0-5.6 ED*
Mounts: Four-Thirds
Price: £tbc
Availability: tbc

Pentax *16-50mm f/2.8 ED AL [IF]*
Mounts: Pentax
Price: £tbc
Availability: March 2007

Pentax *50-135mm f/2.8 ED [IF]*
Mounts: Pentax
Price: £tbc
Availability: March 2007

Pentax *60-250mm f/2.8 ED [IF]*
Mounts: Pentax
Price: £tbc
Availability: March 2007

Pentax *70mm F2.4 'Pancake'*
Mounts: Pentax
Price: £369
Availability: NOW

Sigma *18-50mm f/2.8 EX DC Macro*
Mounts: Canon, Nikon, Pentax, Sony, Sigma, Four-Thirds
Price: £369
Availability: tbc

Sigma *18-200mm f/3.5-6.3 DC OS*
Mounts: Canon, Nikon, Pentax, Sony, Sigma, Four-Thirds
Price: tbc
Availability: tbc

Sigma *24mm f/1.8 EX DG Aspherical Macro*
Mounts: Four-Thirds
Price: £299
Availability: Feb

Sigma *135-400mm f/4.5-5.6 APO DG*
Mounts: Four-Thirds
Price: £479
Availability: Feb

Sigma *300-800mm f/5.6 EX DG APO HSM*
Mounts: Four-Thirds
Price: £499
Availability: Feb

Tamron *18-250mm F/3.5-6.3 Di-II LD (IF) Aspherical Macro*
Mounts: Canon, Nikon, Pentax, Sony
Price: £tbc
Availability: Jan

Zeiss *25mm f/2.8 Distagon T**
Mounts: Nikon F
Price: *€850*
Availability: Dec

Zeiss *35mm f/2 ZF Distagon T**
Mounts: Nikon F
Price: *€850*
Availability: Jan

Zeiss *50mm f/2 ZF Makro-Planar T**
Mounts: Nikon F
Price: *€850*
Availability: March

Zeiss *100mm f/2 ZF Makro-Planar T**
Mounts: Nikon F
Price: *€1650*
Availability: April

Photokina Photo Accessories

Here's a round-up of interesting new bits and bobs from Photokina

SanDisk *12GB and 16GB Extreme III CompactFlash* €475/€635

With the higher resolutions and RAW capture sported by the latest generation of 10MP DSLRs at the consumer level of the market, and image libraries demanding minimum 50MB file sizes from enthusiasts and pros, it's no surprise to find memory card suppliers aiming to hit headlines themselves with ever-increasing capacities. The question is, with most jobbing pros admitting that they don't like to use a capacity greater than a 2GB card in the field – in case of accidental data loss – will anyone risk storing potentially thousands of digital images on the one 16GB CompactFlash card? Still, here it is for power users, along with a fast write speed of 20MB/sec.

SanDisk *4GB Ultra II SDHC Card* €125

With SD standing for Secure Digital and HC 'high capacity', SanDisk is catering to the increasing demands presented by budget DSLRs users, such as those who own the SD-supporting Nikon D50, with its new 4GB variety. The 4GB Ultra II SDHC card can store up to 2,000 high-resolution images at one time and sports a write speed of 9MB/sec. With SDHC cards requiring a compatible card reader, a MicroMate USB 2.0 (which also works with standard SD) is being bundled with the card.

Pretec *16GB CompactFlash* £TBC

With the megapixel race seemingly far from over, Pretec has matched SanDisk in the high-capacity memory storage stakes with the world's (current) largest CF card. Claimed to be able to cope with a wide range of operating temperatures, for power users or more likely pros, access speeds of up to 20MB/sec are offered.

Canon *M80 and M30 Media Storage Devices* £TBC

Instigating a wave of interest at the Canon stand was the manufacturer's attempt to ape the popularity of Epson's P2000 storage device and viewer among EOS digital SLR users. The M80 doesn't quite match Epson's latest upgrade (see opposite page), with the Canon sporting a slightly smaller but still huge 3.7-inch screen, plus an 80MB internal memory cache. Other features include USB 2.0 connectivity and slots for both CF and SD cards, while it looks very cool and feels reasonably rugged to the touch. Support for Canon RAW, JPEG, WAV, plus MPEG video and MP3 sound files is also offered. Like it sounds, the M30 is the 30GB version.

GigaBank *Ultra 120 Portable Hard Drive* £TBC

Beloved of enthusiast photographers who capture images in the great outdoors who want to free up space on their camera's memory cards – by downloading to a device a good deal more portable (at 2.5-inches) than a laptop – portable drives get a boost with this natty 120GB version. Connectivity to your desktop is via USB 2.0.
Visit www.iomagic.com for more information.

Epson *P5000 and P3000 Storage Viewers* £349/£499

The latest addition to Epson's popular range of storage devices and viewers (which includes the P2000 and P4000), the top-of-the-range P5000 has the advantage of a 4-inch, VGA-quality LCD screen, 80GB memory (allowing storage of up to 4,500 RAW images) and long battery life. For more natural-looking results the P5000 boasts the world's first four-colour filter system with a gamut of over 16.7 million colours, while you can zoom in up to 400% to check the fidelity of stored images. Download of images from the device to your desktop is via USB 2.0 (whither FireWire?), and apart from RAW and JPEG support, the P5000 allows playback of MP3 and MPEG-video files. Again featuring a 4-inch screen, the P3000 is the 40GB version.

Hoodman *H-RAV Universal Right Angle Viewfinder* £TBC

Providing a universal mount for most digital cameras, this canny device allows medium-format-style capture with your DSLR – that is, you look down into the viewfinder via the attachment. The idea is that it allows more accurate capture in those instances where it's difficult to otherwise line up eye and viewfinder (for example, if placing your DSLR flat on the floor for that low-angle shot). Compatibility is presently offered with Canon, Nikon, Fuji and Olympus models.

Manfrotto *Modo Tripods*

from £17

Reviewed in the main magazine, Manfrotto's contemporary designed, lightweight and relatively inexpensive range of new Modo 'pods now include two tripods (the Mini and the Maxi) plus a monopod. Both are perfect for the photographer on the move, featuring quick action lever-controlled leg locks and rubber feet for extra stability. The tripod(s) also features a joystick-controlled ball head plus a dividable centre column to shorten the height, allowing for a wider breadth of creative shooting angles. Visit www.manfrotto.com for details.

Zigview *S2* £250

With the Zigview any SLR can offer live LCD preview. It attaches to the viewfinder eyepiece and relays a real-time image from the viewfinder to a 2.5-inch LCD display. The S2 has a screen that can be rotated into any position or detached from the camera module using a cable for remote viewing up to 10 metres. The S2 also features an Interval Timer, and a motion sensor triggers the shutter when motion is detected through the lens. The output can be fed to an external TV monitor too, or to a Video or DVD recorder.

MonsterPod $29.95

Need some support for your compact? The MonsterPod has no telescoping legs, clamps, beans, straps, glue, or suction cups, not even magic. Instead, the MonsterPod sticks to surfaces via a patent pending 'viscoelastic morphing polymer'. It screws into the base of your camera and can then be stuck on to pretty much any firm surface. Buy direct via www.monster-pod.com

Metz *Flash Units* from £309

German firm Metz chose Photokina to spotlight its new range of accessories. Aimed at pro Nikon and Canon DSLR users, the handheld Mecablitz 76 MZ-5 (£570) and Mecablitz 45 CL-4 (£369.99) digital flash units are designed to provide more precise illumination with the integration of improved flash exposure metering from both brands. The units are equipped with rechargeable NiMH batteries, though a belt pack is available in the NiMH-Power Pack P 76. Those Canon/Nikon users looking for supplementary on-camera flash are catered for by the tilting Metz mecablitz 58 AF-1 digital unit (£309.99), that features a foldaway reflector card and, in something of a first, comes complete with a USB interface for subsequent software updates. Also for DSLR owners, a further unit, the Mecablitz 54 MZ-4i digital (£329.99), comes equipped with an adaptor to additionally allow use with Konica Minolta/Sony and Four-Thirds system cameras. Pentax adaptability is promised soon.

CBL Professional *White Balance lens* £150

CBL Professional White Balance Lenses are aimed at photographers for whom critical white balance control is critical. The white side uses a specially formulated grooved board over a reflector lens, covered with a condenser. The mid-grey reverse side is formulated from a secret combination of 13 different materials which have been tested to produce the most consistent colour balance. Simply point your camera at it and take an incident reading from the light source. Available in a range of three sizes, the Medium one is the most useful for DSLR users, and costs £150. Visit www.intro2020.com for more details.

Jobo *Portable Storage Devices: GVE040, GVE080, GVE120* from £379

Jobo has launched a trio of stylishly contemporary-looking GIGA Vu PRO storage devices for photographers on the go that make a welcome change from the boxy or iPod-a-like devices from competing manufacturers. Capacities range from 40GB (the GVE040, for £379.99) through to 120GB (the GVE120, for £599.99). Aside from stills, the ability to save videos and music is offered.

Lowepro *Camera Bags*

from £59

It seems there are never enough configurations of the humble camera bag – especially now we have to contend with laptops and sundry storage devices alongside our cameras and tripods. Described as perfect for photojournalists and photo hobbyists, the SlingShot 100 AW (for £59) and 200 AW (£69) – carried on the back – use a unique sling design to go from 'carry mode' to 'ready mode' in just seconds, allowing quick access to camera gear to prevent missing the perfect shot. Smaller, but still affording room for a laptop and DSLR, is the CompuDaypack (£99), available with a triple compartment design and in a range of colours. Aimed again at photographers, the more austere-looking Rolling CompuTrekker AW (£249) allows users to easily store and transport a pro digital camera with multiple lenses, accessories and a 12-inch laptop.

Lensbaby *3G*

£199

The third generation of the flexible selective-focus SLR lens allows photographers to lock the device in a bent position with the press of a button. Then, by using a traditional barrel focus mechanism, photographers can fine-tune focus and find the 'sweet spot' before pressing the shutter. Photographers can move the area of focus – surrounded by an area of graduated blur – anywhere in the photo by bending the flexible lens tubing. A useful update of a fun device.

Velbon *Sherpa CF645*

£199

Velbon's latest tripod range includes this super lightweight carbon fibre model. Its packed spec sheet includes quick-release legs with height markings, foam covers and retractable rubber feet, and reversible centre column. Match it with the head of your choice for a perfect three-legged companion.

Crumpler *bags*

from £15

Wacky OZ-based bag manufacturer Crumpler chose Photokina to announce its latest raft of products suitable for camera users – including photo bags, photo bags with laptop sleeves, full photo backpacks, half photo backpacks and more. Available in four colours and six sizes, the 'Daily' (at around £60) is described as a 'whatever you want bag', as it features adjustable and removable padded dividers for your photo kit or laptop. The cheekily moniker-ed 'Dick Casey' (£290) is a larger photo/laptop trolley bag described as hard on the outside and soft on the inside. The cute 'Pretty Boys' come in different colours and mini and maxi versions; the minis suitable for digital compacts, the maxis for DSLR and lenses. Finally, there are Pretty Boy, full and half photo backpacks (from around £115), the latter suitable for dividing your kit between photo gear and (it says here) 'girls' phone numbers'.

Your essential guide to the hot new compacts

heading to a camera store near you this Christmas

Gone are the days when manufacturers had only to add an extra megapixel to cameras in order to see consumers rushing out to upgrade. This autumn's compact line-up sees the most advanced models yet hit the market, defining themselves with fresh features that help make pictures better as well as bigger

IN YER FACE

Having woken up to the fact that compact users tend to be potty about photographing family and friends, 'face detection' are the current buzz words in compact design. Canon, Fuji and Nikon are just three of the manufacturers embracing the trend, each bringing their own spin on an intelligent focusing system that is able to recognise and lock onto human faces in a composition.

The latest offerings from Canon (see page 22 of the main issue) feature Face Detection AF/AE, a proprietary Canon technology that works in partnership with 9-Point AiAF to quickly detect main subjects and optimise focus and exposure accordingly. The system is capable of distinguishing up to nine faces in a scene – as well as follow them as they move.

Fujifilm's system, meanwhile, works by triangulating the eyes and a mouth, using an algorithm to optimise focus and exposure for up to ten faces in a single frame. A green square surrounds the face of the primary subject on the camera's LCD screen, while white squares identify up to nine other subjects. Movement tracking keeps the camera 'locked on' to its subjects until they move out of the picture. The benefit? As well as sharper facial features, the camera meters and exposes so faces are seen in the most flattering light.

HIGHER AND HIGHER

Sensitivity too, is a key spec that's growing in significance with this season's headline digicams. Fuji was quick to embrace this trend earlier this year with compacts such as the FinePix F30, which offers up to ISO 3200 at full resolution. The rest of the usual suspects in cameraland may have been relatively slow to follow suit, but the back end of 2006 now sees few manufacturers staying away from the high-sensitivity game, with major players such as Sony, Nikon and Canon whacking up their ISOs.

But not all ISO ratings are equal. When shopping, be sure to take a more in-depth look at compacts professing mega-high sensitivity. Many manufacturers quote ISOs of 1600 or even 3200 – but with the compromise of drastically reduced image resolution.

TOUCH AND FEEL

Touch-sensitive technology may be old news in the mobile and PDA industries, but it is a design feature that camera manufacturers have until now been slow to exploit. Sony jumped in feet first with the launch of two touch-sensitive models, the N20 and T50, which both feature 3-in LCDs that can be controlled using a finger or stylus. Not only does this give users direct access to shooting settings, but new creative features during playback mode in addition. A paint function, for example, allows artistic etchings to be added to pictures, while Sony's Flexible Spot AF lets users focus directly on a specific part of the image with a touch of the screen.

Pentax's T20 benefits similarly from touch-screen programming, while Samsung's NV7 OPS offers a different take on touch-responsive operation, with a new user interface concept dubbed Smart Touch. In a break with tradition, the rear of the camera features two rows of buttons across the length and breath of the LCD screen which users can run their fingers across to scroll quickly through on-screen menus and options.

BIGGER AND BETTER

Despite such technological trends, manufacturers are continuing to build on the aesthetic appeal of their cameras and the same core imaging specifications that have been big news in recent years. Image stabilisation in particular is no longer just the preserve of digital SLR cameras – models such as Canon's G7, Sony's latest Cyber-shots and Panasonic's FZ Superzoom series all feature optical systems for reduced blur. Some companies are also going even further by offering double anti-blur technology. This typically means combining optical stabilisation with a high-sensitivity mode. Megapixels too, continue to rise thanks to a succession of 10MP models including the Olympus mju 1000, Canon G7 and Pentax A20 hitting the market. Finally, confirming the digital camera's place as an essential lifestyle product to be seen with, expect to see new models arrive in a riotous array of new colours and finishes that put slim-line compacts at the forefront of fashion.

Canon *Digital IXUS*

Featuring sleek, distinctive designs coupled with powerful technology, IXUS is the pinnacle of Canon's lifestyle compact series. Heading to stores in time for Christmas are a trio of sparkling new models, headlined by the titanium-clad Digital IXUS 900 Ti.

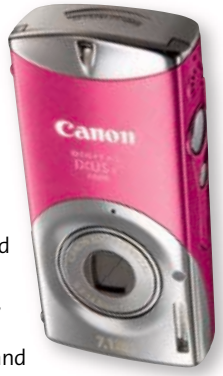
Digital *IXUS 900 Ti* **£399**

Sculpted in the perpetual curve design of its predecessors, the Digital IXUS 900 Ti offers a fresh exterior plus 10MP resolution, a 3x optical zoom lens and Canon's new DIGIC III image processor with Noise Reduction technology. There's a 2.5inch LCD, maximum 1600 ISO and 18 shooting modes.

Digital *IXUS i7* **£249**

An upgrade to the iZoom, the 7MP IXUS i7 comes in four new colours with 2.4x optical zoom and Canon's DIGIC III processor. This processor promises a more rapid performance and improved image rendering, in addition to reducing noise at speeds of up to ISO 1600. The camera offers an impressive 17 different shooting modes including a new 'Aquarium' setting.

Digital *IXUS 850 IS* **£369**



This 7MP camera introduces wideangle zoom capabilities to the Digital IXUS range for the first time, with an optical Image Stabiliser and 28mm (35mm equivalent) 3.8x optical zoom lens. Geared to satisfy more serious compact photographers, the IXUS 850 features a 2.5-in LCD, 9-point AiAF and 17 shooting modes.

Canon *Powershot G7* **£449**

Succeeding the successful G6, this high-spec compact offers 10MP resolution, a 6x optically image-stabilised zoom lens and Canon's new DIGIC III image processor. The DIGIC III delivers new Canon technologies – Face Detection AF/AE and Noise Reduction, which extend the camera's performance to ISO 1600. A 2.5-in LCD screen has a wide viewing angle and anti-glare coating for easier image framing and playback. Furthering the potential for creative photography, the PowerShot G7 is equipped with hotshoe support for Canon Speedlite flash units and is compatible with a range of optional converter lenses.

G7: *KEY SPECIFICATIONS*

- 10 megapixels
- 6x optical zoom lens with optical image stabiliser
- DIGIC III and i SAPS with Noise Reduction and Face Detection AF/AE
- 2.5inch LCD with wide viewing angle and anti-glare coating
- Maximum ISO 1600
- 25 shooting modes
- Full manual control and two custom settings
- Extra telephoto reach with digital tele-converter and safety zoom
- Hotshoe support for Canon Speedlite flashes

Kodak *EasyShare Z710* **£279**

After a rush of releases earlier this year, Kodak has just a single offering in the pipeline for its autumn season. The 10x optical zoom Z710 combines a 7.1-megapixel image sensor, Schneider Kreuznach Variogon optics and a live histogram with manual and custom exposure.

Olympus *mju*

There are five new models in the pipeline including Olympus's first foray into the 10MP compact market

mju *1000* **£330**

The 10MP mju 1000 retains the hallmark weatherproof shiny metal body of its Olympus predecessors, bringing it up to date with a maximum ISO 6400 (at reduced resolution), 2.5-in LCD and 3x optical zoom.

mju *725 SW* **£300**

Waterproof to 5m and shockproof to 1.5m, the mju 725 SW is designed to shrug off anything that life throws at it. The 7MP camera packs in a 3x optical zoom, 24 scene modes and a 2.5-in LCD. There are even four colours to choose from.

mju *730* **£270**

With a super-sized 3inch LCD, the 730 showcases a new slimmer body style and offers 3x optical zoom, 7MP and a weatherproof shell by way of key specs. BrightCapture Technology increases LCD screen contrast and the ISO value to brighten pictures.

mju *740 AND 750* **£260/£300**

Both have 5x optical zoom, 7MP resolution and weatherproof design, with the 750 going one step further to bring image stabilisation to the line-up. The 740 offers a choice of colours and both have BrightCapture technology.

Olympus *FE & SP - NEW ENTRIES*

Hoping to make a big impact on Olympus's FE ('Friendly and Easy') range are new FE-200, FE-190, FE-170 and FE-180 compacts

FE-200 £200

Heading up this fresh line-up is the 6MP FE-200, which features an improved optical design with 5x zoom and wideangle equivalent focal range of 28-140mm. Ten scene modes work with no-nonsense 'one button, one function' controls.

FE-190 £250

The metal-encased FE-190 turns heads with a 18.5mm slim design and entry-level price tag. The model offers a 6MP CCD, a 3x optical zoom lens and the 'one button, one function' design concept.

FE-170 & FE-180 £115/£140

These represent nearly identical additions, both offering 6MP, 2.5-in LCD screens and 3x optical zooms. The FE-180 comes with a metal-fronted body and movie mode with sound. The FE-170 has movie mode without sound.

SP-510 UZ £260

The creative SP range also receives a boost in the form of the 10x optical zoom SP-510 UZ. The 7.1MP camera features a maximum ISO 4,000 in 3MP resolution mode, as well as full manual exposure controls, 21 pre-defined scene modes and 2.5-in LCD.

Pentax *E20 & T20* £119/£250

Pentax has introduced two updates to cameras in its compact E and T series. The entry-level E20 offers 6MP and features a mode dial, 2.4-in LCD and 3x optical zoom. Further up the range is the 7MP T20, which represents an upgrade to the Optio T10 and benefits from touch-screen programming, on-screen image manipulation and high-definition playback. Featuring a 3-in touch-sensitive LCD, the camera costs £249 and is available now.

Sony *Cyber-shot*

With a double whammy of new releases in the pipeline, Sony has announced the T50 and N2 lifestyle compacts.

CYBER-SHOT T50 £350

The 7.2MP, 3x optical zoom T50 features both Super SteadyShot technology and High-Sensitivity mode. This double anti-blur teams a higher sensitivity of ISO 1000 with optical image stabilisation. A hybrid 3.0-in touch-sensitive screen provides direct access to a range of shooting and playback functions.

CYBER-SHOT N2 £350

The N2 offers the highest ever resolution and sensitivity from a compact Cyber-shot camera, and has a Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar 3x optical zoom and ISO 1600 sensitivity. A touch screen 3-in LCD is on hand, while the Super HAD CCD sensor breaks the 10MP barrier for the first time.

Fujifilm *FinePix*

Updates at the entry and top ends of Fuji's compact line-up keep the FinePix line-up fresh

FINEPIX F31FD Approx £290

Featuring almost identical specifications to the F30, the F31fd offers a key addition with face-detection focusing. Fuji describes this feature as the 'the world's fastest Face Detection technology', which will combine with the camera's existing 6MP, 3x optical zoom specifications.

FINEPIX A700 Approx £190

The A700 features a 3x optical zoom and Super CCD HR sensor in addition to a 2.4-in LCD. With 7 megapixels resolution and a sensitivity rating of ISO 100 to 400, the model is aimed at those seeking a straightforward camera for use in everyday shooting opportunities.

Sigma *DP1* **£TBC**

Sigma has unveiled plans to develop a high-end point-and-shoot camera that should hit shops in the first half of 2007. Dubbed the DP1, the camera will feature the same 14-megapixel FOVEON X3 sensor as Sigma's SD14 SLR. A 16.6mm F4 Sigma lens will provide optical functionality, with an angle field of view equivalent to 28mm on a 35mm film camera.

DP1: *KEY SPECIFICATIONS*

- 14-megapixel FOVEON X3 sensor
- Sigma True image-processing engine
- 16.6mm F4 Sigma lens
- 2.5-in TFT LCD
- Viewfinder
- JPEG and RAW formats

Leica *Returns*

The manufacturer has four new cameras to join the M7, MP, R and C-LUX 1, creating a camera for every need

D-LUX 3 **£440**

A 10MP compact with a Leica DC Vario-Elmarit 1:2.8-4.9/6.3-25.2 ASPH zoom lens. The 28-112mm lens allows increased creative scope. A picture stabiliser, three picture formats and a 2.8-in LCD are all on board.

V-LUX 1 **£590**

Based on the Panasonic FZ50, this Superzoom boasts 10MP and a Leica DC Vario-Elmarit 1:2.8-3.7/7.4-88.8 ASPH lens, which offers a 12x optical zoom controlled by a manual ring. Although the specs look similar to that of the FZ50, Leica modified the image processor.

New compacts *at a glance*

Model	Price (SRP)	Megapixels	Lens	Availability
Canon IXUS 900 Ti	£399	10MP	3x optical	Now
Canon Digital IXUS i7	£249	7MP	2.4x optical	Now
Canon Digital IXUS 850 IS	£369	7MP	3.8x optical	Now
Canon Powershot G7	£449	10MP	6x optical	Now
Fujifilm FinePix F31fd	Approx £290	6MP	3x optical	December
Fujifilm FinePix A700	Approx £190	7MP	3x optical	Now
Kodak EasyShare Z710	£279	7MP	10x optical	Now
Leica D-LUX 3	£440	10MP	4x optical	November
Leica V-LUX 1	£590	10MP	12x optical	November
Olympus mju 1000	£330	10MP	3x optical	Now
Olympus Mju 725 SW	£300	7MP	3x optical	Now
Olympus Mju 730	£270	7MP	3x optical	Now
Olympus Mju 740	£260	7MP	5x optical	Now
Olympus Mju 750	£300	7MP	5x optical	Now
Olympus FE-200	£200	6MP	5x optical	Now
Olympus FE-190	£250	6MP	3x optical	Now
Olympus FE-170	£115	6MP	3x optical	Now
Olympus FE-180	£140	6MP	3x optical	Now
Olympus SP-510 UZ	£260	7MP	10x optical	Now
Sigma DP1	£TBC	14MP	16.6 mm F4 lens	Early 2007
Sony Cyber-shot T50	£350	7MP	3x optical	Now
Sony Cyber-shot N2	£350	10MP	3x optical	Now

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What Digital Camera - 01/2006

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"Optics Pro 3 is staggeringly effective... The majority of digital SLR users will find it indispensable."
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Available in three levels, Starter, Standard and Elite, DxO Pro offers automatic image enhancement, with full manual input capabilities whatever type of digital camera you use. Processing a RAW image from your digital camera is as simple as pressing a button and the software's ability to correct the distortions introduced by the camera optics is amazing. Noise reduction, exposure and colour correction, coupled with the ability to set a contrast ratio, that makes exposures perfect for print or reproduction, all add up to a package that will be indispensable for professional and enthusiast photographers alike.

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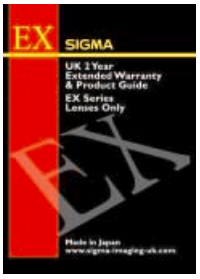
OUR WORLD

In the Niger Delta, even routine cooking looks extraordinary.
ED KASHI: Born in 1957 in New York. Earned a degree in photojournalism at Syracuse University. Photographed in more than 60 countries. Received numerous awards for a wide range of work. Photographs appeared in National Geographic magazine, among many other publications. Photo data: SIGMA 10-20mm F4-5.6 EX DC HSM, 1/250 second exposure at f13.

ED KASHI SHOOTS THE WORLD WITH A SIGMA LENS



The ultra-wide angle capabilities of this Sigma lens open up new possibilities to digital photographers. The image circle of the lens is specially designed to suit digital SLRs with APS-C size sensors. Special Low Dispersion (SLD) glass and aspheric lens elements correct aberrations for clear, distinctive image quality at all times and allows a minimum focusing distance of 24cm (9.4inches) throughout the entire zoom range. The Hyper Sonic Motor (HSM) provides silent, responsive auto-focus with full-time manual focus override. This compact lens is finished to advanced EX standards and comes complete with a matched petal-shaped lens hood.

FOR DIGITAL

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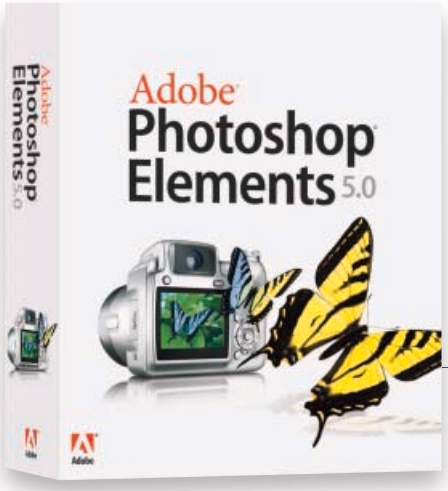


Adobe *Photoshop Elements 5.0*

£99

Latest Windows upgrade of the 'Photoshop for beginners' program, which is a fraction of the price, aside from boasting a fraction of its bigger brother's functionality. The latter criticism looks to be gradually changing though, as new editing controls include a black and white conversion tool, as well as the ability to tweak Curves and achieve perfect exposure. Lens distortion can also be corrected. There's no news on a date for a Mac upgrade, though.

Corel *Paint Shop Pro Photo XI*

£90

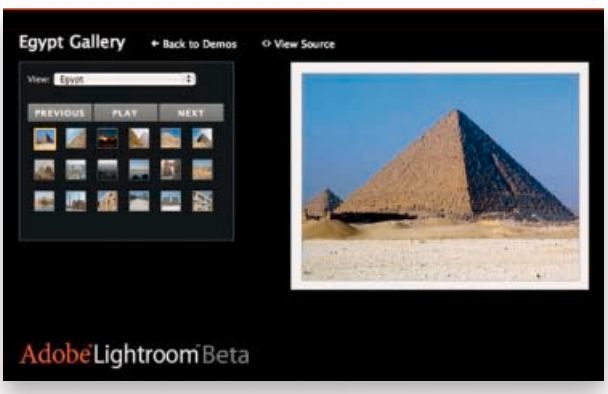
Corel's long-running post-processing software – and more affordable, if less-widely-used, alternative to Photoshop – gets its latest revamp. In an attempt to appeal to everyone from novices upwards, it includes photo projects alongside an advanced range of image-editing tools. New features include the Colour Changer tool (similar but more realistic version of Canon's in-camera My Colours photo editing tool), the Time Machine (more excitingly, giving shots the look of a photo from the 1920s or 60s, if that appeals) plus a self-explanatory built-in photo organiser for one-stop photo management. Also new are a skin smoothing feature for more flattering portraits, plus a film and filters feature which enables digital capture monkeys to ape the look of traditional film. You additionally get increased RAW support to cope with the demands of the latest batch of digital SLRs.

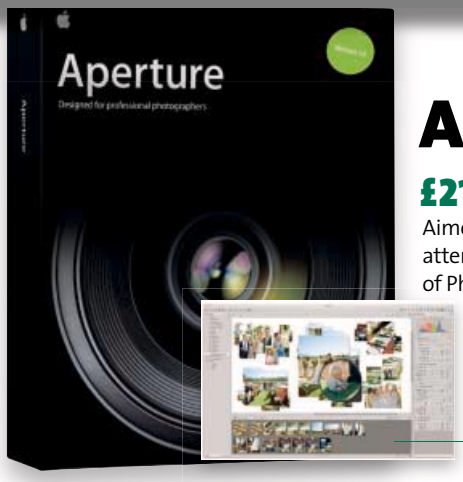
DxO *Optics Pro v4* £TBC

Version four of the automatic image enhancement (noise and exposure correction) software offers support for Windows PCs – with Mac support to follow as WDC went to press – plus the Sony Alpha 100 and Nikon D2Xs digital SLRs. The latest version corrects any aberrations inherent in the use of 19 Nikon camera lens and body combinations, while Sony fans are offered corrections for the most popular Alpha lenses. In addition to the retail version of the software, a free demo is available from the DxO website (www.dxo.com).

Adobe *Photoshop Lightroom Beta 4* £TBC

This is the latest update of the photography workflow tool uniting the feature set for Windows PCs and Macs (still in its beta testing stage; the final version is promised for 2007). There's an improved white balance selection option plus an intuitive new tone curve adjustment feature, allowing users to obtain subtle mid tone, shadow and highlight adjustments. Also promised are new filters, search presets and organisational options for photographers. In addition to bog-standard JPEG, Lightroom now supports over 125 native RAW file formats. Download the beta version at: http://labs.adobe.com/technologies/lightroom

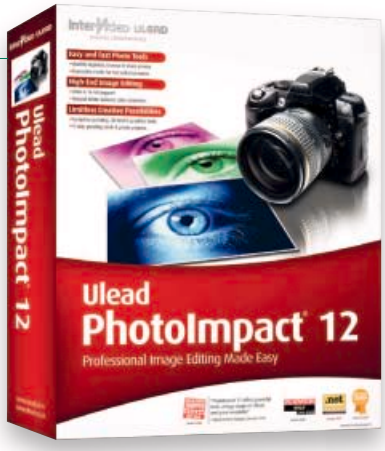




Apple *Aperture 1.5*

£219

Aimed primarily at pro photographers, Apple's attempt to introduce its own lower-priced version of Photoshop for Mac fans gets an upgrade with powerful new adjustment tools, along with seamless iLife and iWork integration. A new open library feature allows photographers to store their RAW, JPEG or TIFF files either within Aperture itself or elsewhere on their desktop. The program can also now generate high-resolution image previews, allowing photographers to take a compact version of their photo library on the road, while leaving the memory-hungry originals at home.



Ulead *PhotoImpact 12* **£49**

The long-running, simple-to-navigate image editor for beginners gets its umpteenth upgrade with a helpful ExpressFix mode (a simplified interface with the more-commonly used correction tools), plus new hand-holding photo projects including web page and DVD menu creation. The program allows portraits to be enhanced with the removal of redeye while a Beautify Skin option acts as a non-surgical facelift. Should novices need further guidance they have it via the new SmartGuide 'how to' panel. At the other end of the scale, support for RAW has been expanded to include more new models.

Canon *Pixma printers* **from £60**

Canon chose Photokina to showcase a plethora of all-in-one photo printers, with something for everyone. Prices start at around £60 for the Pixma MP160, rising through the MP180, MP460, and MP510, with the MP810 and MP600R machines topping the range. New dedicated photo printers include the Pixma iP6700D and iP5300, while the mini260 and mini220 complete the line up.

Epson *PictureMate 200 series* **from £129**

Just when everyone else is adding sleek lines to their printers, Epson is heading in the opposite direction with this utilitarian-looking duo of box-shaped portable printers: the PM240 and 280. Both feature a 2.5-inch review LCD, and 6x4-inch output at 5760x1440dpi, with per-print speeds of just over 40 seconds. Cost per photo is roughly 20p. The 280 also features a CD drive, allowing users to either print from a CD or copy their photos to one. Both feature five droplet sizes and include Epson PhotoEnhance technology that adjusts skin tone and brightness (if needed) to deliver optimum quality images.

HP *Designjet Z3100* **£3,280**

A new 12-ink large-format printer featuring four blacks is bound to get the attention of any pro photographer serious about utilising a broad colour gamut for creating the most lifelike or atmospheric prints possible. Its stated ability to deliver consistent colours print after print, thanks to an embedded 'spectrophotometer' with HP i1 Colour Technology, just might possibly tempt some pros away from the arguably more widely favoured Epson brand.

HP *Photosmart A717* **£199**

Aimed at the mass consumer market, the HP Photosmart A717 is another new compact, portable photo printer delivering 13 x 18cm hard copies without the need for a PC. Worthy of note is a 4GB internal memory, while images can be viewed and cases of red eye removed via a pop-up 2.5-inch screen, or the device can be hooked up to the television set. Unlike Epson's alternative, there's no carry handle here, but HP's A717 is decidedly less boxy.

HP *Photosmart Pro B8350* £299

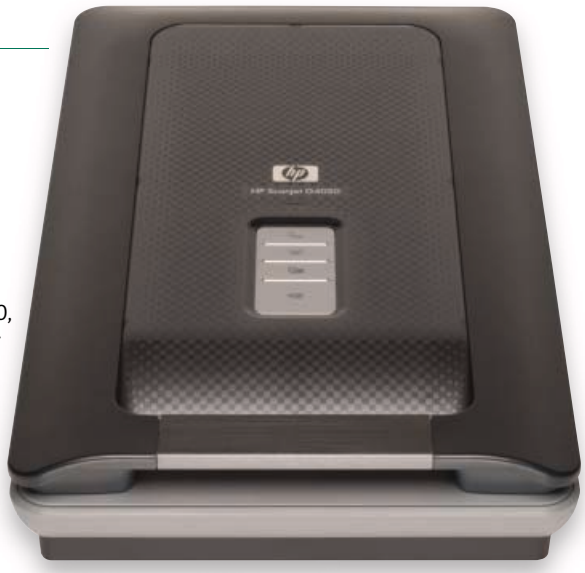
Aimed at photo hobbyists, this desktop device affords high-quality borderless A3+ output, but also hard copies in a range of sizes from 6x4-inches through A4. Like the rest of HP's current range, the printer utilises six HP Vivera inks affording prints a life of up to 108 years – if used with HP's own branded media of course. There's also some rudimentary image-editing accessible via HP's Real Life technologies.

Ilford *Photo Inkjet Paper* £TBC

Ilford has dumped the Printasia name for its consumer inkjet papers and decided (rightly, in our view) that the Ilford name is much stronger. Their new range of papers, which features bright new packaging, includes three categories of photo paper (Premium Plus, Premium and Photo) colour coded for clarity, and there's a Create range too for making crafts. Due in early 2007.

Kodak *EasyShare 350 Photo Printer* £TBC

About the size of a box of tissues, and the big yellow giant's most attractive printer to date – certainly a step on from the boxy Printer Docks – the 350 dye-sub device enables wireless printing of 6x4-inch hard copies via Bluetooth (and so is perfect for the camera phone brigade). Compatibility is more conventionally offered with PictBridge-enabled cameras and via high-speed USB 2.0. UK availability is to be confirmed.



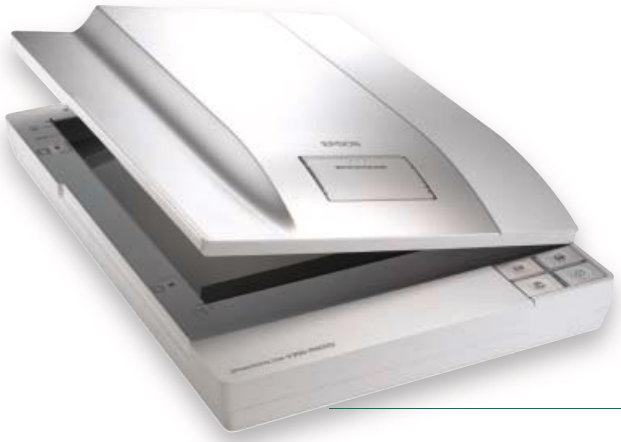
HP *Scanjet G4050, G4010 and G3010 scanners* £88

Even though two-thirds of UK homes now own a digital camera, most of us have a plethora of film prints we'd like to digitise – if only we had the time. For HP, Photokina coincided with an announcement of three new scanners. The top-of-the range G4050 offers six-colour, 96-bit scanning and includes a transparency adaptor that can hold up to sixteen 35mm slides or 30 negatives at a resolution of 4800x9600 dpi, along with HP Real Life technology which removes dust and scratches.

The mid range G4010 features the same main specification as the G4050, but can scan 'just' five 35mm slides or six negatives at once. Completing the range is the budget G3010, which features 4800x9600dpi resolution and 48-bit colour.

Epson *Stylus Pro 3800* £1,169

The most compact A2 printer on the market, the Epson Stylus Pro 3800 is aimed at die-hard photo enthusiasts who have a passion for large-format printing. UltraChrome K3 ink technology is supported with super-sized ink tanks, which together enable the output of print sizes from A6 to A2. The full ink set includes cyan, magenta, yellow, light cyan, light magenta, light black, light light black photo black or matte black. An A2 print can be delivered in 6 min 45 seconds at a resolution of 1440 x 720dpi.



Epson *Perfection V350 Photo Scanner* **£99**

Aimed at the enthusiast photographer, the Epson Perfection V350 Photo incorporates Epson's Matrix CCD technology into a new slim design. A new hinge design means that you can fully open the lid to 90 or 180-degrees for scanning books and thicker objects, while a resolution of 4800dpi, an automatic film loader and 48-bit colour depth are also offered.

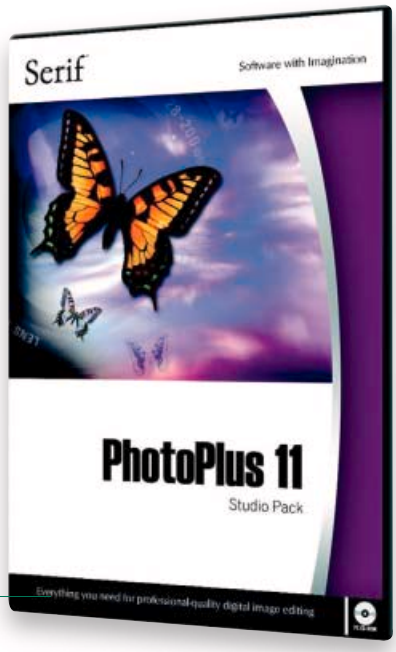
CanoScan *LiDE 600F and* **CanoScan** *LiDE 70 scanners* **£129/£59**

Both scanners offer increased resolution on their predecessors, and the LiDE 600F is the first Contact Image Sensor scanner capable of scanning at 4800 dpi. Each scanner oozes the compact style of the LIDE ethos, and features a stand for vertical scanning. The stand is integrated in the CanoScan LiDE 600F, which boasts a three-way design and offers drop-in vertical scanning. A Film Adaptor Unit is also available for the 600F, while the LiDE 70 features 2400 x 4800dpi resolution.

DataTraveler *Mini Fun USB Flash Drive*

Add a flash of fun to data transport with the DataTraveler Mini Fun USB Flash Drive – the smallest, and possibly most colourful, storage gadget currently available. The device comes preloaded with Atlantis and Magic Vines gaming software and is available in a variety of colours and a range of capacities up to 1GB.

£24 to £147



PhotoPlus *11 Studio Pack* **£59**

This new version of Serif's digital image editor is billed 'more flexible and easy-to-use than ever'. Combining image correction and adjustment tools with enhanced usability features, PhotoPlus 11 Studio Pack is a cost-effective alternative to photo-editing apps from Adobe and Corel.

LINDY *20 in 1 Card Reader* **£28**

Lindy's new 20 in 1 Card Reader provides notebook users with a simple and convenient way to read and write to a multitude of memory card formats.

A plug and play device with a single slot multi-card interface, the 20-in-1 reader fits into the PCMCIA slot and is immediately ready to go.

Datacolor *Printfix Pro 2.0* $549

Datacolor has updated its award-winning ColorVision PrintFIX PRO colour management solution. Version 2.0 now handles greyscales, enabling the production of exhibition-quality black and white prints. PrintFIX PRO 2.0 also lets users create individual printer profiles for output devices with grey cartridges, by importing up to 256 grey targets and creating profiles that take into account the ink and paper being used. New highlight and shadow detail sliders allow easy control of punch and detail in shadows and highlights, while a curves import function allows users to import accurate greyscale or RGB curves sets. Visit www.colorvision.ch

Epson *DX All in Ones* from £69

Aimed at entry-level users, the new DX6000 (£99.99), DX5000 (£89.99) and DX4000 (£69.99) are ideal for those who output low levels of prints and are perhaps a little short of desk space. The trio feature Epson DURABrite Ultra ink, a print resolution of up to 5760x1440dpi and Epson's Micro Piezo technology. Extras include Epson PhotoEnhance software, which performs automatic photo enhancements, while Easy Photo Fix scanning software can restore old and faded photographs.

Epson *Perfection Scanners*

£69/£549

For those who like to work with mixed media or have shoeboxes full of prints under the bed, Epson's latest range of Perfection scanners may appeal. First up is the Epson Perfection V100 (£69.99) that includes a built-in transparency unit for scanning 35mm filmstrips and slides. Topping the range, the Epson Perfection V750 Pro (£549.99) offers a whopping resolution of 6400dpi x 9600dpi, and includes an innovative dual lens system, Digital Ice technology for removal of dust and scratches plus 4.0 DMax optical density.

Corel *Snapfire PLUS* £29

As well as the latest version of Paint Shop Pro, Corel has announced Snapfire Plus, a fun photo sharing and project creation package. The family-orientated software for those new to digital photography allows the dropping of photos into creative templates including calendars, cards, or album pages; plus the sharing of groups of photos and video clips complete with music and transitional effects.

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16 PAGES ON THE BENEFITS OF DSLR PHOTOGRAPHY

FREE

THE WORLD OF *Digital SLR Photography*

INSIDE:

10

REASONS WHY YOUR NEXT CAMERA SHOULD BE A DSLR

IN ASSOCIATION WITH WHAT DIGITAL CAMERA

www.nikon.co.uk

Nikon

The DSLR Advantage

Anyone who has mastered their point-and-shoot digital compact or is making the swap from 35mm film, knows that a digital SLR – or DSLR – is the way to go for the very best in image quality. And with more features, more functionality and some very competitive prices, there's never been a better time to invest in one.

No wonder DSLR is currently the fastest-growing sector in the photography market.

Our free guide aims to tell you why your next camera should be a DSLR, and provide food for thought on why that DSLR should be a Nikon.

Here's something to chew on for starters:

INTRODUCING... THE D80

WHAT DIGITAL CAMERA choice

'The D80 is Nikon's 11th digital SLR, making the company one of the most prolific in this field. Right now, Nikon is leading the pack.'

Jamie Harrison, What Digital Camera, October 2006

- 10.2 megapixel CCD
- 11-area wide auto focus
- Advanced image-processing engine
- Large and bright 0.94x viewfinder
- 2.5-inch LCD with 170° viewing angle
- 0.18 of a second start-up plus 3fps continuous shooting

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5 **Superior** *image quality*

6 **Never** *miss a shot*

7 **Focusing** *options*

8 **Sophisticated** *metering*

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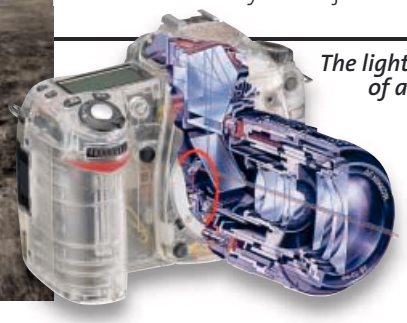
EDITED BY: **NIGEL ATHERTON**
WRITTEN BY: **GAVIN STOKER & DOUG HARMAN**
DESIGNED BY: **MICHAEL O'CONNELL**

1 See directly *through the lens*

The BIG picture

Taken by: Craig Hodgson
Camera: Nikon D50

'This was taken at the bottom of the Niagara Escarpment in the heart of Ontario's wine country where such rural scenes are common. I was anxious to test the low-light capabilities of my brand new Nikkor 18-200mm VR and this foggy winter morning provided me with the ideal atmosphere. I set my aperture to f8 and used a focal length of 90mm which resulted in a shutter speed of 1/20 sec. I was very happy to see how well this handheld photo turned out considering the slow exposure. The VR definitely did its job.'



The light path of a DSLR

With a digital SLR, it's not just the technology in use that ensures every shot is special. The ability to compose precisely through the DSLR's large, bright viewfinder – and literally see what the camera's sensor sees – means that the relationship with your subject is a more intimate one, enabling for example you to more precisely pick up on every shadow or highlight detail and expose accordingly.

The acclaimed new Nikon D80 DLSR features a larger eye-level viewfinder than its award-winning D70 and D70s forebears, boasting 0.94x magnification and built-in dioptre adjustment. It also offers a red LED grid overlay for aligning verticals and aiding composition.

Ensuring every subtle nuance is captured is the CCD at the camera's heart. Nikon was the first to introduce a 10 megapixel sensor in its D200 DSLR, the bigger brother of the new D80, which itself features a 10.2 million pixel RGB DX format chip, uniquely specified by Nikon.

Though when using a digital SLR shots are exclusively composed with the aid of a viewfinder, the captured image can of course be instantly reviewed on the DSLR's TFT LCD. The D80 features a large and clear 2.5-inch screen with 230k pixel resolution and 170° viewing angle so that critical focus and exposure can be checked at the time of capture, even in bright sunlight, and, if necessary, another shot be taken. Luckily, the LCD's menu is bright and easily read with plenty of options to adjust images both before and after shooting.

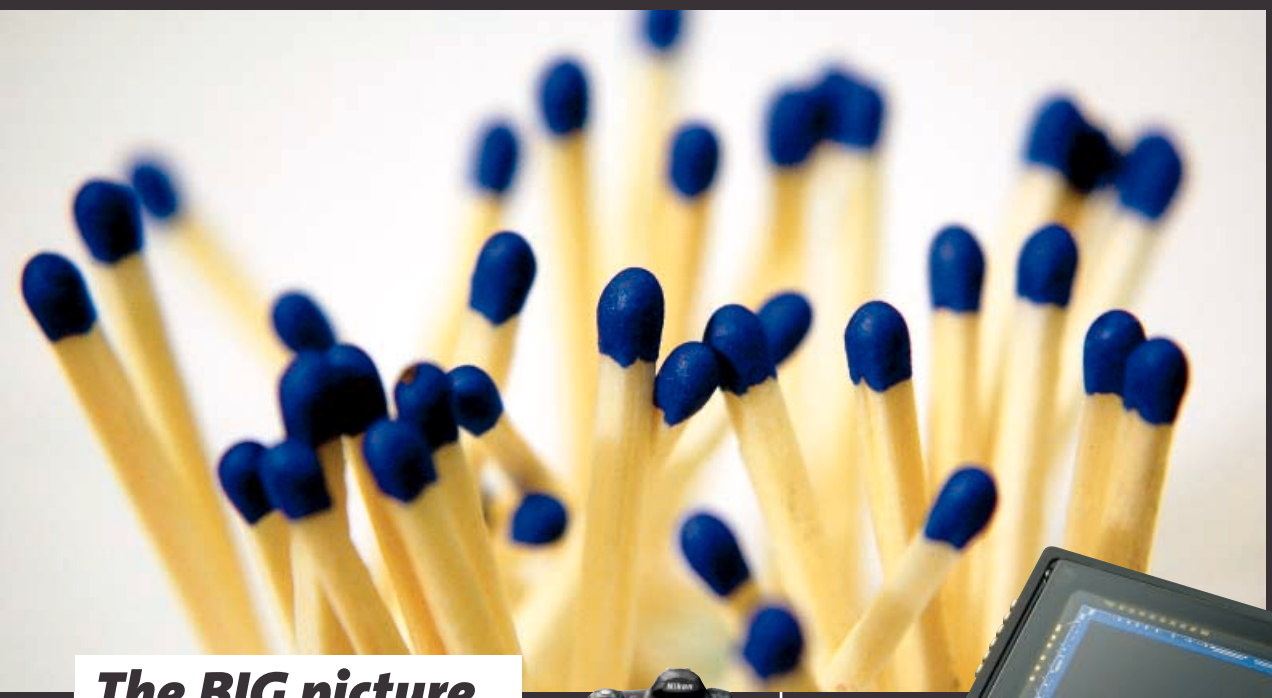
2 Superior *image quality*

Thanks to a combination of market-leading sensor – larger than that in a compact camera – plus class-leading lens technology, images from a DSLR are the very pinnacle of photographic excellence.

To achieve the best possible results, the new Nikon D80 DSLR features a uniquely developed 10.2 megapixel DX sensor. The result: razor-sharp pictures, with great tonality, excellent shadow detail and amazing depth-of-field. Regular JPEGS require very little in the way of post processing when delivered straight from the camera.

And, for perfectionist photographers who want optimum hands-on control over their images, the ability to shoot NEF RAW files (either on their own or simultaneously with JPEGs) and apply your own personal processing parameters to each shot – via the latest NX software – is a real boon to creativity. As is a new Multiple Exposure option, which fashions a single image from up to three consecutive exposures, mirroring the effect previously achievable on film.

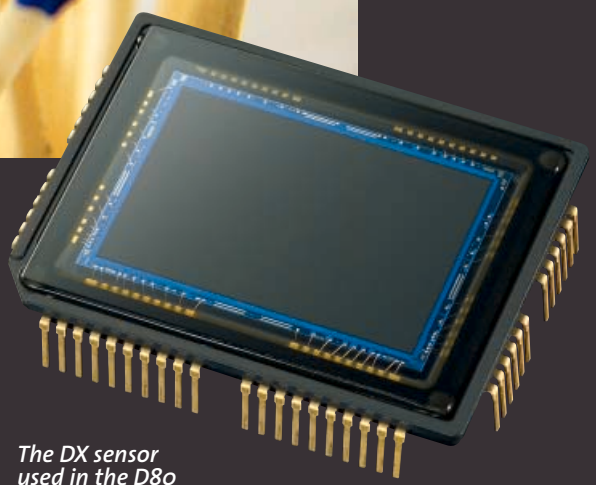
But don't take our word for the D80's suitability when it comes to superior image quality. As *What Digital Camera* said in its test: 'The images have good colour, consistent exposure and plenty of detail. Which is all we could ask for.'



The BIG picture

Taken by: Rohit Mattoo
Camera used: Nikon D50

'This picture is part of a series of photographs called "Around the House". I was home bound on account of the Scottish weather. The light in this picture was from a table lamp, against a white background. I used Blu-Tack to hold the "Scottish Bluebells" matchsticks. A Nikkor 55-200mm lens, with a +4 close-up filter attached, was used for this shot. This shot was one the first few I shot around the house as experiments.'



The DX sensor used in the D80

3 Never miss a shot

Due to cutting-edge technology, not only is a digital SLR faster to power up than a compact camera, its more powerful processor ensures that any shutter delay or lag is virtually unnoticeable, meaning that when a photo opportunity presents itself, you'll never miss that action shot.

The new Nikon D80 DSLR features a fast start-up time of just 0.18 seconds, shutter lag of 80 milliseconds, and a continuous shooting speed of three frames per second, in bursts up to a maximum of 100 JPEG format images.

Read and write times to or from the memory card in use are similarly swift, meaning that you'll never again have to wait between capturing one image and the camera being ready to take the next.

The same processor also offers colour-independent analogue pre-conditioning and high-precision 12bit digital image processing algorithms, which make for faithful colours and so more natural-looking images.

When it comes to class-leading responsiveness, look no further than a DSLR and the new Nikon D80 in particular.

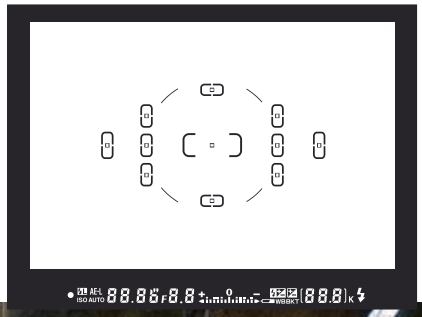
The D80 offers a continuous shooting speed of three frames per second

The BIG picture

Taken by: Hector Loudon
Camera used: Nikon D70s

'When trying to photograph the monkeys I started by using the 'sports' preset, in case they moved suddenly and also to eliminate any handshake, as I was using a 70-300mm zoom lens. However, the monkey pictured seemed completely unfazed by my presence, allowing me to use the 'macro' preset to get a detailed shot of its fur. This setting also created a shallow depth of field, making the green background simple.'

4 Focusing options



The 11 focusing points as seen through the viewfinder of the D80

On point-and-shoot compacts the ability to achieve critical focus is largely, if not exclusively, down to the camera's AF, with little in the way of manual control. With a DSLR, there's the ability to get much more hands-on, with the option of top-notch AF always there to fall back on.

The Nikon D80 features a new refined 11-area wide AF system, its focus points dotted around the central area of the viewfinder for easy reference – a set-up adapted from that of the higher-end, and much-trumpeted, Nikon D200 DSLR, based on Nikon's advanced Multi-CAM 1000 AF Sensor Module.

This means that your subject is always in focus, even when not dead centre of the frame; the greater range of focus options allowing for more creative photography.

The BIG picture

Taken by: Dee Beliveau **Camera used:** Nikon D70

'This image was made at "English Bay" in downtown Vancouver, Canada, last autumn on a super foggy day. Using my Nikon D70 and kit lens (18-70mm) at 18 mm, I captured this surreal autumn scene while strolling around at the park. In Photoshop I slightly increased the saturation to make the autumn red a tad more intense. I then sharpened the image with the unsharp mask, and Voila!'

5 Sophisticated metering

The BIG picture

Taken by:
Jon Read
Camera used:
Nikon D200

'The image was shot with a Nikon D200 and 10-20mm f/4.0-5.6 at f/11, at around 5:30am while I was on honeymoon in the Maldives in July. I'm not usually an early riser, but on this rare occasion I made the effort!'

With 3D Colour Matrix Metering II, bad exposures should be a thing of the past

Making sure pictures are perfectly exposed every time you take a shot is the D80's evaluative 3D Colour Matrix Metering II system, as featured on the acclaimed D200 and D50 DSLRs before it, backed up by the regular options of variable centre-weighted and spot metering.

The 3D Colour Matrix Metering II system works by comparing the scene in front of the camera against an expanded onboard database featuring data from more than 30,000 actual photographic scenes to instantly and accurately calculate the final exposure value for the shot.

Additionally, there's the option of variable EV compensation, allowing the incremental selection of +/- 5EV in 1/3-stop intervals, which can be tied into auto bracketing mode.

The D80 has introduced one feature from Nikon's compact series: D-Lighting (located in the retouch menu). This cleverly balances backlit or contrast-y images, again ensuring an even exposure with plenty of detail.

Finally, there's also the ability to shoot at a wide ISO range, spanning ISO 100 through to a top speed of ISO 1600 for low-light photography without flash. This can be boosted one stop, bringing it to an effective ISO 3200. In-camera noise reduction ensures that there are no unpleasant artefacts when shooting at higher sensitivity settings.

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6 Battery options

The optional MB-D80 battery pack accepts two EN-EL3e Lithium-ion batteries, or six AA alkalines

Every photographer knows that a feeling of powerlessness is the one thing worse (much, much worse) than merely having no available memory left on the card in use.

That's why the Nikon D80 packs an EN-EL3e lithium-ion pack with enough power to last up to a whopping 2,700 shots without once needing to be recharged. Especially useful when you're on location or vacation, thousands of miles from home.

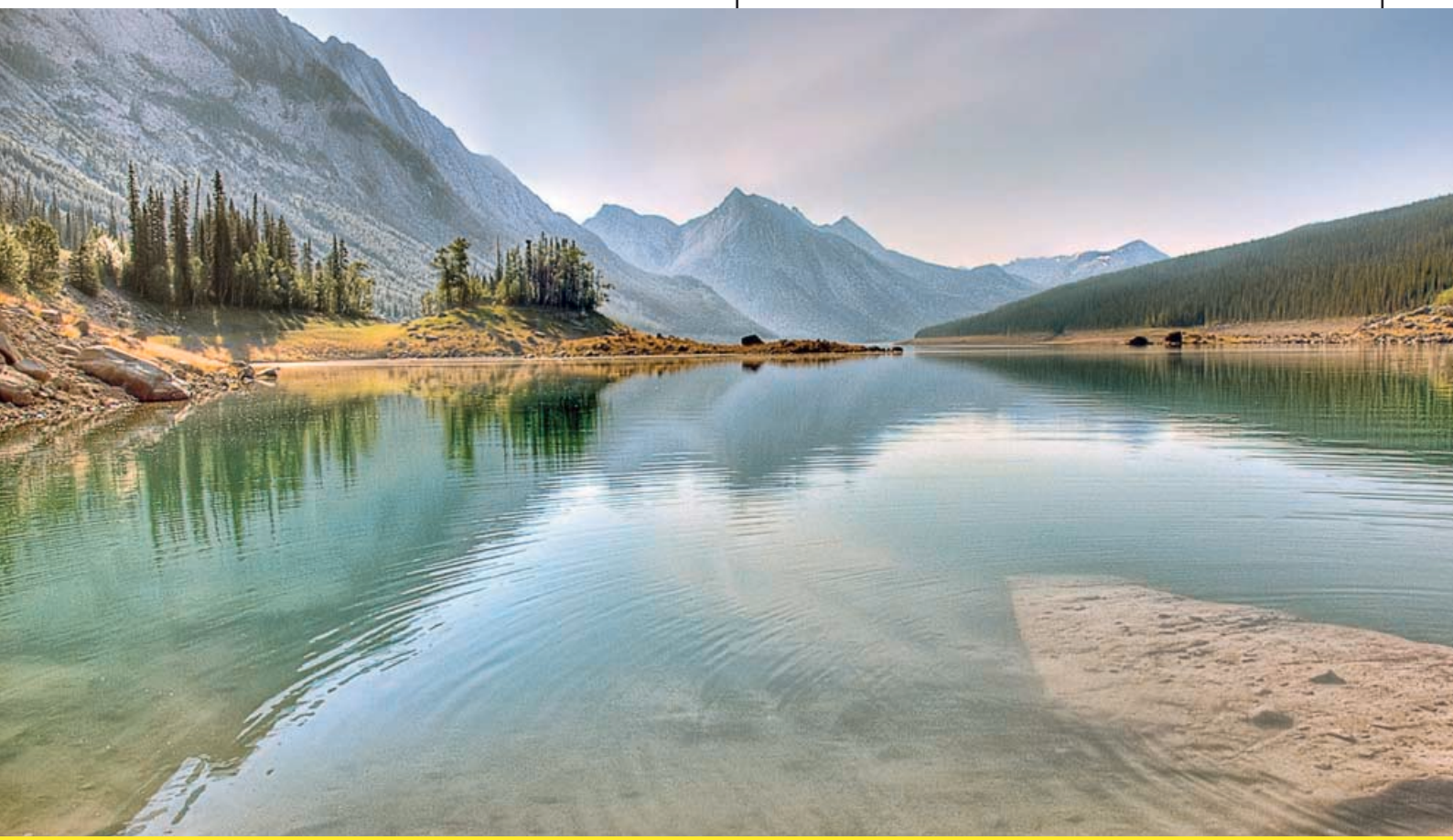
The D80's dedicated high-performance processing chip also aids battery life with its lower power consumption, assuring more pictures per battery charge while significantly accelerating performance on all levels.

If that's not enough, add-ons include a D80 Multi-Power Battery Pack for extended shooting potential.

The BIG picture

Taken by: Doug Cawker
Camera used: Nikon D70

' Early in the morning, I stumbled upon this lake near the town of Jasper in the Canadian Rockies. I used a Nikon D70 and 10-20mm lens and bracketed five exposures one stop apart like this: -2, -1, 0, 1, 2. I also used a tripod and, back at home, combined the photos using tone-blending software called Photomatix. Once it was combined as a single 16-bit TIFF, I brought the picture into Photoshop and made it an 8-bit JPG and worked on the saturation, contrast and cropping. I want to go back there for more shots before winter kicks in, in Canada!'



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Nikon

7 Build quality

The D80 body offers excellent build quality

In life you have to take the rough with the smooth, and so it is that digital SLRs are imbued with a robustness that will withstand the occasional knock in the heat of the action.

The Nikon D80 features a portably slim yet tough polycarbonate body, sealed to prevent the ingress of moisture and other undesirables. A pair of rubber covers protects the USB 2.0, DC-in, AV and remote control ports.

Its size, layout and controls have all been designed for maximum ease of use. For added convenience, the body features a dual command dial, front and back, in preference to the single dial command of most rival DSLRs.

The BIG picture

Taken by: Bryn Jones
Camera used: Nikon D70

'I was working as an electronics engineer for the British Antarctic Survey at their Halley base on the Brunt Ice Shelf – mostly looking after a suite of scientific instrumentation investigating different layers of the atmosphere. Occasionally we were allowed a day off to go and see the Emperor Penguin colonies on the coast.'

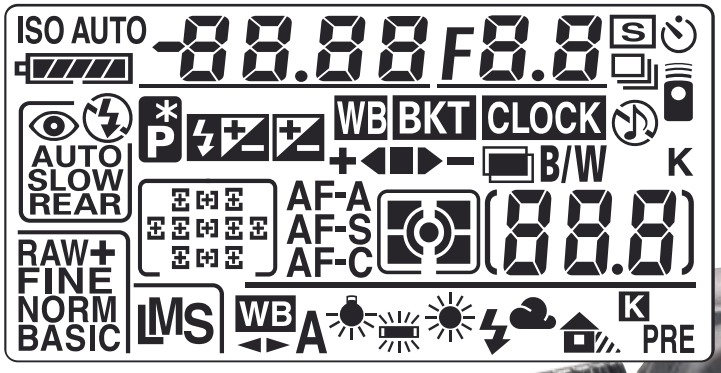
8 Greater user control

Digital SLRs allow photographers to exert their own influence over images through individual creative choices.

The Nikon D80 is packed with such hands-on control, including the ability to customise shooting options via the menu screens, plus manually tweak exposure control. As you'd expect from a DLSR, ISO speed and white balance can also be manually adjusted to suit the user, while favoured functionality can be saved as a personal setting.

Image sharpening, adjustment of tones, colour saturation and hue can all be controlled in-camera – not forgetting the full creative control offered by shutter speeds ranging from 1/4000 to 30 seconds or a bulb setting.

Other enhancing effects include D-Lighting, which automatically enhances detail, plus redeye correction and trim function – for creating smaller files for easier sharing. Add to these Image Overlay – which merges a pair of NEF (RAW) files into a composite image, monochrome settings, filter-like effects plus multiple exposures – and you have a wealth of user control at your fingertips.



VIEWFINDER
NIKON HAS INCREASED THE SIZE OF THE VIEWFINDER ON THE D80. WITH 0.94X MAGNIFICATION AND A LARGER SCREEN, THE IMAGE IS BRIGHT AND CLEAR. THE AF HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF 11 INDIVIDUALLY SELECTABLE POINTS.

LCD & MENU
THE LCD SCREEN IS 2.5-INCHES, BRINGING IT INTO LINE WITH OTHER CURRENT DSLRS. THE MENU IS BRIGHT AND EASY TO READ, WITH PLENTY OF OPTIONS TO ADJUST THE IMAGES BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER SHOOTING.

9 DSLR lenses: *Faster, better... and more!*

Digital SLRs allow photographers the freedom to chop and change lenses to best suit their choice of subject matter – whether it's an extreme close-up of a minute insect, telephoto portrait, wide-angle panoramic vista, or fisheye lens for funky psychedelic effect.

Since Nikon has produced over 35 million lenses, with over 80 in its current line-up, there's bound to be an optic to suit.

And there's the peace of mind that Nikon's DX format sensor and F bayonet lens mount assures compatibility across the comprehensive range of AF and DX Nikkor lenses – with a magnification factor of 1.5x that of standard 35mm format.

Nikkor VR 300

Nikon's VR (II) or Vibration Reduction (II) allows for sharper hand-held pictures at slower shutter speeds, at up to 4-stops slower than would be possible with a 'normal' lens.

Nikon's VR technology works by measuring the angular velocity of the camera (or camera shake) in pitch (vertical direction) and yaw (horizontal motion). It then adjusts special, movable (or active) lens elements to compensate for the motion.

These lens elements are driven by tiny servos, controlled by a special microprocessor connected to the pitch and yaw sensors, so that light that would otherwise hit the sensor blurred (or off axis) due to camera shake is straightened. Blurring is thereby reduced or eliminated.

The BIG picture

Taken by: Matteo Cavalleri
Camera used: Nikon D50

'I've shot quite a lot of freestyle photos in the past few months since I met a couple of people who are long-time freestyle players. I usually take freestyle photos using a telephoto lens during the tournaments. However, I started to be a bit dissatisfied as I had the impression I was just repeating the same shots again and again. Then I had the idea to drop the telephoto lens and try to use the wideangle. This choice implies the need to shoot very close to the players, but they already knew me and my photos very well, so they were very happy to let me run among them trying to take some shots.'

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10 DSLR versatility & accessories

By investing in a digital SLR, you're opting for the best conduit for your photographic vision. Not only are the latest models easier to operate and so achieve better results, supplementary devices such as wireless remotes and off-camera flash aid accessibility and creativity.

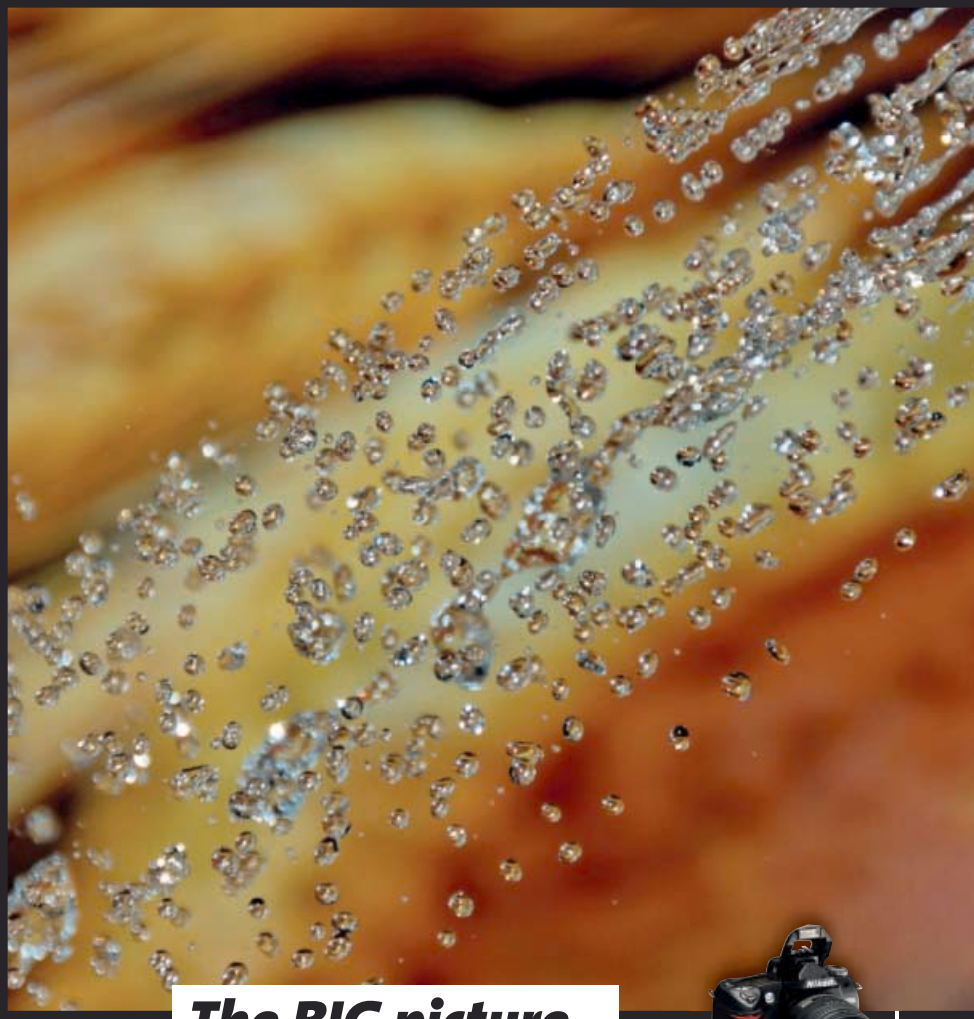
In addition to its extensive range of auto and manual lenses and converters, the Nikon system also includes numerous flashguns, macro attachments for close-ups and creative extras (such as the ability to attach a body to a microscope or go scuba diving with your kit).

The new Nikon D80 DLSR offers full support for the Advanced Wireless Lighting System that allows the built-in flash to operate as a two-group remote commander, firing wireless SB-800 or SB-600 Speedlights. Extras include the Wireless ML-L3 (IR) Remote Control and MC-DC1 Remote Cord – useful for avoiding camera shake and image blur when attempting long exposures.

In terms of software, the D80 comes bundled with PictureProject for easy image download, editing, organisation and sharing, while Capture NX is available as an optional purchase to maximise the full potential of NEF (RAW) files.

Whatever you want to shoot, there's a Nikon accessory available to make it possible.

A small selection from the vast Nikon DSLR system



The BIG picture

Taken by: Mark Kogan **Camera used:** Nikon D50

'I was always mildly interested in photography but didn't take it seriously until only recently, when I saw some beautiful pictures that my friends were shooting. I decided to take the plunge and invest in a DSLR camera and started learning photography.

'The camera was configured to shoot in RAW format, shutter priority 1/500 and built-in flash to freeze the motion, using maximum zoom. I got as close as I could to the water while still being able to get focused pictures, but the autofocus was not working (I guess the flowing water was throwing it off), so I had to focus manually. Almost no cropping was necessary in the end. The pictures were shot at my kitchen faucet – taking care not to get the camera wet! I experimented with various colourful objects that I had lying around in the background and the result is the pictures I like the most.'

a **30% discount** - call **0845 676 778** and quote **36X**.

Nikon

The world of

The Nikon total imaging system not only offers serious photographers a wide range of bodies for the task, but also, for maximum creativity, a wide array of lenses to go with them.

So, when you buy a Nikon DSLR, you're buying into a rapidly expanding world with something to cater for everyone's photographic requirements.

Here's a small taster of the bodies, lenses and accessories currently available to Nikon system users:

'Nikon has produced another winner, reinforcing the strength of its SLR line-up; a worthy successor to the incredibly popular D70s.'

91% **What Digital Camera, October 2006**

'The results and handling from this camera speak for themselves. Nikon has done itself proud to offer this much control and quality for a price that's not unreasonable. It also has access to the massive Nikon system, which for upgraders is a strong reason to stick with Nikon and consider the D80 for higher-resolution images.'

D50 D70s D80

Nikon DSLR

The Nikon Community

There's a wealth of additional information and advice on owning and using a DSLR to be had from the many Nikon user clubs online.

Well worth a visit is **www.nikonclub.co.uk**, a large forum for Nikon owners of all types (digital or otherwise). It has sections for member portfolios, blogs, Q&As plus a neat photo-sharing section broken down into topics including landscape, macro and abstract.

www.nikonians.org is another good resource for everything Nikon, featuring forums and galleries, a Nikon shop, workshops and news. Also take a look at the All Nikon club (**http://allnikon.proboards86.com**), set up and run by Nikon enthusiasts.

Finally, there's the Nikon Owners Magazine, a worldwide publication with the purpose of uniting Nikon owners and bringing them unique free offers that will increase their skill and interest in photography and Nikon equipment. Browse its website and subscribe at **www.nikonownermagazine.com**

D200 D2HS D2XS

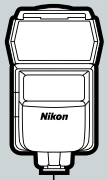
The D80 System

1. Viewfinder Accessories

- Diopter-Adjustment Viewfinder Lenses (-5 to +3m-1) DK-20C
- Eyepiece Magnifier (Eyepiece Adapter) DG-2 FAF20202
- Eyepiece Adapter DK-22
- Eyepiece Cap DK-5* FXA10193
- Angle viewfinder DR-6 FAF20601
- Rubber Eyecup DK-21* VXA13087
- Magnifying Eyepiece DK-21M VAF 00321

2. External I-TTL Speedlights and Accessories

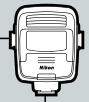
- Speedlight SB-800 FSA03501



- Speedlight SB-600 FSA03601

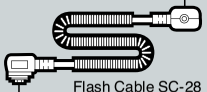
Studio Speedlights**

- Flash Adaptor AS-15 FSW52901



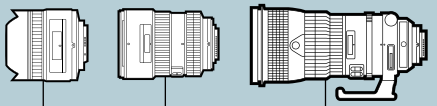
- SB-R200 Wireless Remote Speedlight FSA60601

Nikon Speedlights SB-800/600 FSA03501/ FSA03601



- Flash Cable SC-28 FSG02601
- Flash Cable SC-29 FSG02701

3. Nikkor Lenses



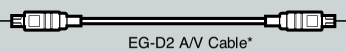
- Nikon Fieldscopes
- FSA-L1 Fieldscope camera attachment

4. Remote Control Accessories

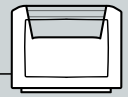
- Remote Cord MC-DC1 VAW18101

- Wireless Remote Control ML-L3 FFW002AA

5. TV Accessory



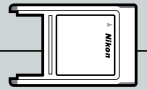
- EG-D2 A/V Cable* VXA13055



- TV Monitor**

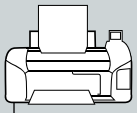
6. Computer Related Accessories

- Secure Digital Card (SD)**

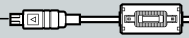


- PC Card Adapter**

- Personal Computer**



- PictBridge Compatible Printer**



- USB cable UC-E4* VAG11401

- Capture NX VSA56003

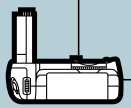
- PictureProject*

- Camera Control Pro VSA56103

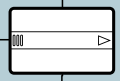
- Capture NX Trial Version*

- Nikon View Pro VSA55903

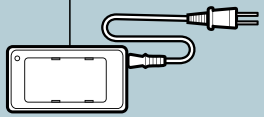
7. Power Accessories



- MB-D80 Battery Pack VAK16301



- EN-EL3e Rechargeable Li-ion Battery* VAW131403



- MH-18a Battery Charger* VAK16EA, VAK146EB (UK)

- AC Adapter EH-5 VAK121EA VAK121EB (UK)

8. Protection Accessories

- Nikon System Bag CF-EU01 VAE129BV

- Semi-soft case CF-D80 VAE13201

- AN DCI strap VXA13083

- Monitor Cover* BM-7 LCD VAW12307

KEY: Lenses | Power Accessories | Other Accessories

*Accessories supplied with D80 **Non-Nikon product